

## Grade distribution statistics reveal marks are skewed

#### By JON SILBERSTEIN-LOEB NEWS EDITOR

Most Colby students received B's or above during the 2000-2001 academic year, suggesting that grades at Colby are skewed toward the higher end of the spectrum.

Dean of Faculty Ed Yeterian met last week with the four division chairs • to discuss grade distributions. The group has decided to keep the statistics and their discussion about grade distributions confidential making it difficult to determine whether last year's distributions are part of a growing trend toward grade inflation or an anomaly.

President William D. Adams announced at an interview with WMHB Waterville that grade inflation at Colby is a problem.

The term grade inflation means that students' grades do not reflect the knowledge they have learned. The term also suggests a previous standard of grading existed and has since been raised.

Several professors doubt this ideal standard has ever existed but rather, believe grades have gradually become compacted toward the higher end of the spectrum.

When all students receive high marks, graduate schools and business recruiters may ignore grades and rely more on entrance tests. As a result, recruiters are forced to depend on connections and other gauges of reputation to determine who looks good on paper and who is really worthy.

According to USA Today, poor and minority students who are the first in their families to graduate from college and do not have connections are disadvantaged. "No matter how hard they work, their A's look ordinary," the paper reported.

Fewer than 20 percent of all college students nationwide receive grades below a B-minus, according to a study released by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Some Colby professors believe one factor contributing to grade compaction are evaluation systems in which students grade professors, thereby providing an incentive for , have a safety net out there," said teachers, especially untenured ones, to go easy on their evaluators. Others contend that, less popular departments and professors grade leniently to encourage greater academic participation in their discipline.

At Colby, a large safety net prevents students from getting low grades. If a student is doing poorly in a class most professors will ask the student to come in for consultation. If the student continues to do poorly an interim report is issued to the student. A copy of the report goes to the stu-

dent's advisor and Associate Dean of Students Mark Serdjenian.

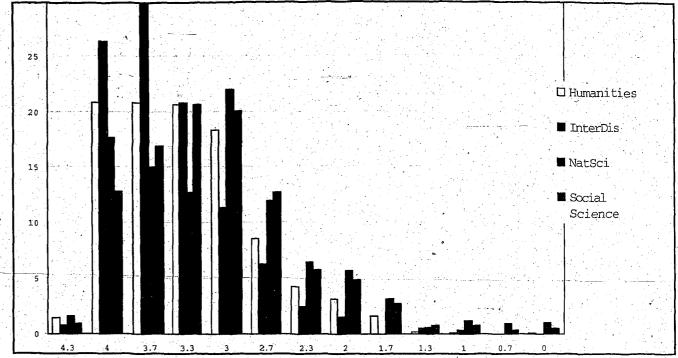
Freshman can drop a class until their last day of class and other students can drop until the middle of the semester.

If a student is given two warning slips in one class or in two different classes, Serdjenian will meet with the student. At the end of each semester the Committee on Standing reviews all students with a GPA below a 2.0 or a GPA in their major below a 2.0 to determine if they are "making progress toward the degree." If the student is not making progress they are put on academic probation and continued failure to improve often means expulsion.

"It is harder for students to fall between the cracks because we do Serdienian.

Grade compaction is also the result of professional decisions made by professors on how best to grade their students and by differences between disciplines.

"How professors grade their students is a matter of professional prerogative," Adams said. "It is difficult to come to collective solutions that don't involve this prerogative. I am not hugely optimistic that we would come to a solution that would be wholly agreeable, but I think it is



This graphic shows the distribution of grades by division from the fall 2000 semester. The Interdisiciplinary division includes departments such as Women's Studies and American Studies.

something we should talk about."

Director of women's studies Lyn Brown refused to comment as to why the percentage of A's in interdisciplinary courses are generally higher than others and why her department had the highest distribution of A's last spring.

American studies, was reluctant to formulate conclusions based on the limited data set. Bryant allows his students to rewrite one of the three papers he assigns a semester for a new grade.

"This particular pedagogy positively influences students grades," Professor Cedric Bryant, director of said Bryant, "but revision is an inte-

gral part of the writing process. I have hardly ever had a student who wasn't trying to succeed. It is untenable to a give an F to someone who is trying to succeed."

DAVID COHEN/ THE COLBY ECHO

Theater and dance department see INFLATION continued on page 2

Health Center director moves to ban smoking on campus

#### **By MIRANDA SILVERMAN STAFF WRITER**

Comprised of doctors, nurses, faculty, and students, the Healthy Campus Committee (HCC) met for the first time last week. The purpose of the HCC is to decrease tobacco use on campus by reducing the • number of people who use it and by exploring the possibility of turning Colby into a smoke-free campus. These ideas are very much prelimigoals by offering support groups and one-on-one counseling services. Medical Director Dr. Melanie Thompson, head of the HCC said, "People need to remember that these services are completely free. There is no reason not to take advantage of them."

Thompson is also looking to reduce smoking by turning Colby into a smoke-free campus. The HCC wants to allow non-smokers the right not to be subjected to second hand smoke and to discourage smokers from smoking on campus. Dr. Thompson would like smoking to be completely banned on campus. "My definition, although not popular, would be no tobacco on campus. Other schools have done it; we could do it," she said, "but these are my comments and do not in any way represent the admin- that cannot handle cigarette smoke,

The HCC is looking to achieve its istration nor the group of interested people who attended the (meeting)."

HCC members Peter Brush '03 and Chris Surprenant '05, however, have a different opinion than Dr. Thompson.

"I am not in favor of banning smoking on campus. However, I am in favor of requiring people to smoke in places which will have minimal effect on others," Surprenant said.

such as people with asthma." At present, the HCC is dis-

cussing banning smoking inside dorms and around all building doors. The underpass of Lovejoy, for example, is one place where the HCC is looking to ban smoking.

Dr. Thompson wants students to recognize that "we are trying to limit smoking because it is in their best interests.'

Brush and Surprenant feel that this process needs to move slowly and they want to hear students' opinions. "I think that trying to tell kids what to do is bad. Agitating people to get your way simply doesn't work," said Brush. Surprenant said, "If policy is to change, it needs to change in a way that most of the students want, not just in the way that a vocal minority wants."

free campus are mixed. Many students recognize that the issue is just in the beginning stages but think it something worth talking about.

"I think the issue of making Colby smoke free is definitely worth exploring," said Jen Varley

While he is firmly against smoking, Jamie Snyder-Fair '05 said, "I think that banning smoking on campus is denying students certain such as toxins in our immediate rights. They are 18 and they can environment," she said. make their own decisions. Devon McConnell Gordon '05 brought to light an issue that arose last year when President Adams decided to ban the selling of cigarettes in the Spa. "I don't like smoking one bit but I think it will be hard for the HCC to make Colby smoke-free when students know that we have tons of money invested in tobacco stocks,"

said McConnell Gordon. "Since Colby isn't planning on selling them, I think it's really hypocritical for them to ban smoking while they're contributing to others that do.'

Dr. Thompson also touched upon the issue of tobacco stocks.

"I hope investment issues do not stop people from making educated decisions about public health issues. The HCC is now looking at various ways to help improve the health of Colby students, faculty and staff members (smoker and non), by "talking about tobacco issues, short term and long term," Dr. Thompson said. Their immediate goal, said Brush, "is to provide a venue for people who want to quit."

nary, and a smoke-free campus is far from becoming policy.

For many, movements to ban smoking on campus conjures up negative memories of last year, when the administration discontinued the sale of cigarettes in the Joseph Family Spa. Students were further disenchanted when it was discovered that the College has large investments in big tobacco.

Brush agrees. "I want to make it safe for everyone but convenient for everyone," he said. "I don't think it's worthwhile to ban smoking completely because it is a policy that cannot be enforced. Instead we should encourage students to quit smoking through free programs and by limiting the places they can smoke so as to protect the people

Students' reactions to a smoke-

The HHC will next meet on May 3.

## **Professor Longstaff to** retire at end of year

By ANDREA PIEKARSKI CONTRIBUTING WRITER

After 33 years of teaching at Colby, Religious Studies professor Thomas R.W. Longstaff has decided to say goodbye. Longstaff will retire after the 2002 spring semester.

Longstaff began his teaching career at Colby in 1969 as a part- time sabbatical replacement professor and HR in Butler. Aside from some minor teaching positions as a graduate student, Colby was Longstaff's first teaching position.

"Things were different then," he said while describing a place where men and women lived on different sides of campus and where "frat

row" actually had fraternities.

Since coming to Colby, Longstaff has taught in many different areas including religion, American Studies, and African studies. His areas of expertise are Near Eastern Religions and biblical

\* studies. He is also the only practicing field archeologist at Colby. "He's one of the busiest profes-

sors you'll find," says student and research assistant Christina Lavertu '02.

Saturday.

Longstaff plans to keep busy with, and the environment he has after retirement. He will continue his research and archeological fieldwork in Sepphoris, Israel, as the Associate Director of

"We will remember

him for his sense of

humor, love for

power point presen-

tations, and vivid

stories about his

many travels."

Longstaff, who plans on remain-

ing in Waterville, hopes to continue

actively participating in the Colby

community by attending concerts,

lectures, visiting the museum, and

cally, just in a different light," he

said, "and I'll also take a little time

"I'll still be on campus periodi-

Longstaff's favorite memories of

attending sporting events.

Excavations.

for myself,"

-Sarah Miller '02

Student

worked in.

"The best thing about Colby," he said, "is the students I have been able to teach."

Longstaff's students would say that the feeling is mutual.

"Everyone in the Religious Studies department is grateful for all that he has contributed to the life of the college and to the department. He has spent so many years sharing his love for religion and archeology with hundreds of students," says student Sara Miller

Longstaff had no "advice" for those who will be back next year because he knows the place and people he loves are in good hands.

"I care a great deal for Colby, but I trust you," he said. "You don't need me to tell you what to do. I trust you."

Miller spoke for many when she said, "We will remember him for his sense of humor, love for power point presentations, and vivid stories about his many travels. We hope that he enjoys his well-earned retirement, and wish him all the best in the future."

# **Environmentalist LaDuke** speaks for Earth Week

#### By LIZ BOMZE ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Before a full crowd in the Lorimer Chapel, ex-vice-presidential candidate and environmentalist Winona LaDuke spoke on Tuesday night in honor of Earth Week.

LaDuke, who lives on the White Earth Indian Reservation in rural Minnesota, founded and works for a non-profit organization called the White Earth Land Recovery Project, which works on issues of land, culture, and the environment. Among other tasks, it works to return land from government control to her community.

"The only compensation for land is land," she declared.

She opened her lecture with a concept of Ojibwe thinking; that she "doesn't want her kids to be raised to think that you can buy your culture in a mall." Instead, she "wants to be a part of determining what her future looks like. It is a question of our democracy, which is an immense privilege and

"I'm motivated by two major they deserve it." things," she explained. "By the fact that I am a mother and by the teachings in my community."

LaDuke structured her lecture around these motivations. She spoke at length about the difficulty of raising children in a culture that resists many of the fundamental ideals that are stressed to youth. LaDuke has three small children and cares for four more who are not her own.

"How many of you were taught as a child that stealing is wrong?" she asked the crowd. "Ninety percent of the land held on our reservation was not procured legally; much of it is controlled by someone who doesn't live there...like the government. How am I supposed to tell my kids not to steal if you can't tell that to the government?"

"How many of you were told not to be greedy?" she continued. The United States, she explained, "is far more concerned with the issues of the rich and famous than the poor. Nobody asks how they got wealthy-they just assume that

**IN THE PUB:** 

Seniors in the pub tell

of their hopes for the

next three weeks.

She explained that questions should be asked, such as the maldistribution of wealth. The United Nations found that there are 225 American citizens whose personal wealth is equal to that of 2.5 billion indigenous people. It was estimated that if a four-percent taxywere placed on those 225 people, it would provide many basic needs

for people on the bottom, "That wouldn't even be a Rolls Royce for them," LaDuke commented.

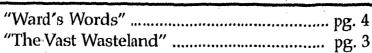
"The relationship of wealth is not always between individuals; it's often about national debts, My 13 year-old daughter asked me what I don't like about Wal-Mart, and I told her it's because it has a larger economic value than many countries, like Israel, Ireland, and Portugal. If it has that much, it should be paying a decent wage to its employees."

From this point she delved into

see LaDUKE continued on page 2

Colby include the students he has responsibility." taught, the faculty he has worked What's Inside LOVE: Emma McCandless

writes on unconditional love.



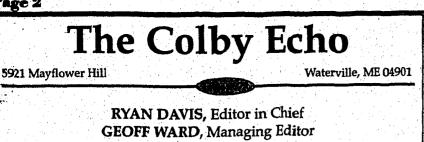


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**ANIMAL:** Bitch and Animal preformed on Frat Row for Earth Day festivities on



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The Colby Echo is a weekly newspaper published by the students of Colby College on Thursday of each week the College is in session.

#### LETTERS

The Echo encourages letters from its readers, especially those within the immediate community. Letters should not exceed 400 words and must pertain to a current issue or topic at Colby. Letters are due by Sunday at midnight for publication the same week. Letters should be typed and must be signed and include 'an address or phone number. The Echo will not, under any circumstances, print an unsigned letter.

If possible, please submit letters in Microsoft Word or text format either on 3.5" disk or via e-mail at echo@colby.edu. The Echo reserves the right to edit all submissions.

#### EDITORIALS

The Editorials are the official opinion of the paper. Opinions expressed in the individual columns, advertising and features are those of the author, not of the Echo.

#### CONTACT US

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## Anna L'Hommedieu: Colby's most recent Watson Fellow

**Echo News** 

#### By KIRA VASSAR STAFF WRITER

After she graduates this spring, Anna L'Hommedieu '02 will be traveling to Ecuador, Spain, and Italy for free. L'Hommedieu was awarded the Thomas J. Watson fellowship, which will allow her to travel the world next year and pursue her dream of doing research on South American immigration.

L'Hommedieu first became excited about the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship during her freshman year when a senior from her dorm, Gillian Morejon '00, was awarded a fellowship. Throughout Anna's Colby career, the Watson Fellowship has remained an aspiration of hers. The only issue was conceiving a creative research idea both personally relevant and worthy of a year abroad.

For her, the six months she spent abroad in Quito, Ecuador and Costa Rica during her junior year implanted an idea and a passion, which subsequently solidified into a research topic following her return home. Anna's independent research project is entitled "Temporary Immigrants: A Permanent Solution?" and focuses on the Ecuadorian economic crisis which has resulted in mass-migration to Spain and Italy.

L'Hommedieu was able to observe the effects and experiences of immigration first-hand through conversations with Ecuadorians while in Quito. This fueled her love of relating to a diversity of people and traveling within Spanish-speaking countries.

By spending time in Spain, Italy, and Ecuador over the course of her fellowship, L'Hommedieu plans to establish relationships with Ecuadorian immigrants and thereby learn their life-stories and capture the duality of their existence through writing and photography.

Initially, the hope of earning money to bring back to families in Ecuador motivates immigrants to travel to Spain. This enormous immigration movement consists mainly of women seeking domestic work. However as time passes, the perspectives of some immigrants change and they choose to sustain their new lives in Spain, thus rupturing family structures. L'Hommedieu will study how transnationalism ' in Africa, Sign Language/Deaf may affect a culture of people and the country to which they migrate.

Each spring, the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship program chooses 60 applicants from a pool of approximately 1000 graduating seniors, representing 50 selective liberal arts col-

leges and universities. Students first apply for the Watson Fellowship within their own college or university, from which four are chosen to nationally represent their school.

To ensure a multi-dimensional research approach, Colby applicants interview intensely with professors from various departments including economics, religious studies, art, and government. The application process then moves to a national level, which mandates that students provide a personal statement, research proposal, and letters of recommendation, to be followed by an on-campus interview with a Watson interviewer.

To the exceptional 60 recipients who are chosen, the Watson Fellowship grants each recipient a \$22,000 stipend to comprehensively study their proposed research topic.

This year's Watson fellows plan to explore a disparity of topics indicative of their own individuality; among these are Improvisational Theater around the World, Sea Turtles in Kenya, AIDS Orphanages Culture, Chinese Festivals, and the Olive's Mediterranean roots.

L'Hommedieu enthusiastically awaits her Aug. 1 departure to Spain and her concurrent embarkation on a dream that has been four years in the making.

### NEWS BRIDES

#### **Climb** for the Climate

On Saturday, April 27, in the Alfond Athletic Center, starting at 12 p.m., the Colby Mountaineering Club and Colby Environmental Coalition will host a bouldering competition to raise money to conserve a plot of rainforest through the Nature Conservancy. Registration starts at 11 a.m. and costs \$3. Prizes will be awarded. Members of the Colby and Waterville communities are invited to attend. Contact Doug Melzer at ext. 6954 with any questions.

#### "The Living" to be Performed in April and May

Anthony Clarvoe's play The Living will be presented on April 26 and 27 and May 3 and 4 by the Department of Theater and Dance. All performances are at 7:30 p.m. in Strider Theater. Following the May 3 and 4 performances Clarvoe will be on hand to speak with the audience.

Directed by Dennis Barnett, visiting assistant professor of theater and dance, this 1991 play explores London society during the Great Plague of 1665. The Living focuses on the individual and social forces that affect strategies for surviving a crisis. Clarvoe's script portrays the stories of individuals struggling to build a new community amid danger and personal loss. It was inspired by Daniel Defoe's A Journal of the Plague Year, Samuel Pepys's 1665 diaries and several other primary sources. Containing numerous parallels between the plague and AIDS, Clarvoe's thought-provoking drama speaks to many contemporary issues and is ultimately filled with hope.

General admission is \$3; students and seniors are \$2. For ticket information call the box office at 207-872-3358 between 4-6 p.m. Monday through Saturday of performance weeks. Or call 207-872-3388 between 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Tickets may also be reserved online at www.colby.edu/theater.

#### **Inaugural Colby Italian** Festival

The Department of French and Italian and the Paganucci Chair announce the "Inaugural Colby Italian Festival" on May 2-3, 2002.The festival will feature an introductory lecture by leading Italian scholar Graziella Parati, entitled "The Future of Italian Studies" on Thursday, May 2, at 4:30 in the Spa. The lecture will be followed by a concert of pieces by Italian composer Giuseppe Tartini performed by Colby Trio Primavera. The even will end with a Italian dinner in the Pugh Center

## **Senior activists discuss** their experiences at Colby

By KAITLIN McCAFFERTY FEATURES EDITOR

Three seniors gathered to lead a discussion and impart their wisdom to up and coming student leaders. They stressed the importance of continuing to fight for change at Colby as well as solidarity between groups to strengthen the activist voice on campus.

The three panelists included Jake Culbertson '02, Amy Reznitsky '02 and Holly Brewster 102. Each has been influential in Colby activism this year and in past years. They have been on various college committees and have tried to work to make Colby a more accepting, safe place for all individuals. Culbertson is the president of the Four Winds club, which promotes Native American awareness around campus. Reznitsky has been involved in the Bridge, the Pugh Center planning group, the College Affairs Committee, as well as feminist movements on campus. Brewster has been part of the Multi-cultural Affairs Committee and a leader of the Bridge. These are just a few of the endeavors undertaken by the panelists. In the discussion, the panelists emphasized the fact that one may become involved in activism at any point in their Colby career. Brewster used herself as an example. She began being involved in activism during the second semester of her junior year. Since that time, she has been influential in many campaigns to change the school such as the Queer Studies program, and the recent list of demands that were given to the trustees. Brewster said, "because it's such a small campus there really are few people willing to step up and take charge, but the people who do have a good opportunity." Another point that the panelists made was that it is important to seek allies in different marginalized groups on campus. The rally that included both SOBHU and the Bridge, as well as the demands

made to the trustees was one opportunity where groups came together to make an impact.

"(We should) encourage all students to make connections and take initiative," Reznitsky said. The panelists were optimistic

about the future uses of the Pugh Center in realizing those goals.

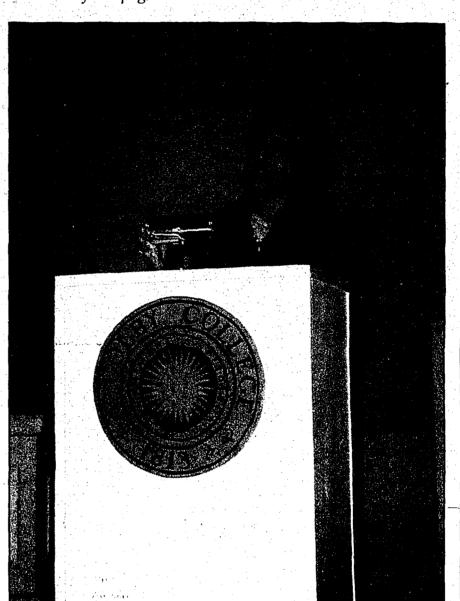
"The Pugh Center is not used as a common meeting area. My one main complaint is that groups don't mix," Culbertson said.

All were hopeful that with the new set up of the Pugh Center, groups will begin to come together and share ideas. Reznitsky hopes that a leadership and develupon what has already been accomplished.

Colby," but, "there has been so much change in the past four years." She encourages students to keep working toward their goals.

"Change around here is slow," said Brewster. "Four years isn't a long time for an institution to change."

The discussion turned over to current problems that activists at Colby have been encountering. Many students feel that they are constricted by fighting "Colby within Colby," as one audience member said. They expressed wishes to go outside of Colby by writing to other schools, the newspapers, and other media outlets in opment program will be created so order to put pressure on the that student leaders could build administration and the trustees to get their demands met.



LADUKE: Demands change continued from page 1

coalition evolving (from the Pugh Center Alliance)," Brewster said.

Also, getting all students involved in the process is important to raising awareness and making campus more open to activist ideas. The group cited the How to be an Ally discussion that was held in the fall. At the discussion a list of ideas on how to be an ally was formed. The list has since been published in the Echo, twice.

"The majority of students on campus are not racist, not homophobic, but they don't know what to do," Brewster said. She feels that the list was one way to help students see how they could be part of a change on campus.

The three expressed that the best way to achieve anything at Colby is to get student support. Brewster used the Queer Studies program as an example. The group started a petition and got enough support that the program went through Presidents' Council.

The panelists stressed that although change may seem to come slow at Colby, one must be patient and look at the positive changes that have been made rather than dwell on what has not been accomplished.

Reznitsky admitted that she is usually "not too optimistic about

Many expressed their concerns "The most important thing is a over alcohol having a large role in campus activities. One audience member said, "We are at an elite institution, we need to start to act like we're at an elite institution."

> The panelists discussed the problems that they have encountered with the time constraints that being an activist puts on their academic life.

> "You're caught between two things you want to do. One ultimately impacts you more. I did what I felt was more important," Culbertson said.

Reznitsky added, "It's important to remember to let other people help."

"I came to the realization that I am a student here first. I'm trying to get queer people the right and opportunity to be a student, not a queer student," said Brewster. "If you feel like you're the only one fighting for what you're doing, it's important to take a step back."

The panelists ended with a plea for people to come to them and ask questions about being an activist and a leader. Although they have only been fighting for a few years, they can impart some of their knowledge to make the fight easier for younger students who will be filling their places in the fall.

LIZ BOMZE / THE COLBY ECHO Environmentalist Winona LaDuke lectures in Lorimer Chapel.

discussion of the Living Wage Campaign, which argues that a person should be paid enough money to keep a family of four above the poverty level.

To accomplish this, she explained, "it is estimated that no one should make less than ten dollars per hour, which is almost twice minimum wage."

LaDuke also discussed the philosophy of "cleaning up an old mess before you make a new mess," she spoke about the problem of dumping nuclear waste on the land of those who do not have the political power to combat it, and abandoning precious metal mines, so that they emit toxic decide to do with yourself."

chemicals into the atmosphere. "There is no absence of ability to make changes—the value of the United States economy is equal to

the value of all other economies." LaDuke recounted a conversation with a Native American friend, who said, "change will come when the white men in society realize that the chemicals are causing their testicles to shrink."

Although she herself said that she was unsure when change would happen, LaDuke ended her lecture by saying, "change happens through the hands of individuals. We have immense privilege, it is now a guestion of what you

On Friday, May 3, at 7 p.m. there will be a bilingual reading of Modern Italian poetry, including anticipation of renowned poet Paolo Valesio.

#### **Colby Collegium Musicum to Perform Music of Bach**

Collegium Musicum, directed by Eva Linfield, associate professor of music, Colby's early music group, will present its spring concert, "Passion and Glorification in J.S. Bach's Music," on Saturday, April 27. The 7:30 p.m. concert will be held in Lorimer Chapel and is open to the public free of charge.

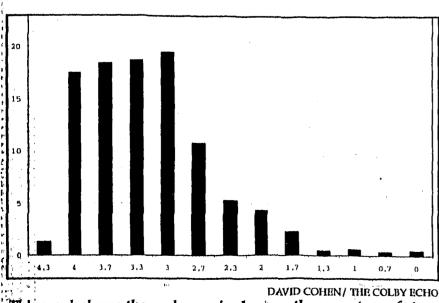
The concert program will feature Bach's Cantata no. 4, Christ lag in Todesbanden and the Magnificat, Cantata no. 4 was written for Easter and addresses the dark side of Lent as well as the exuberance of Easter. With the Magnificat, Bach provides music for a festive Vesper celebration. The singers will be joined by an instrumental chamber ensemble of strings, woodwinds, trumpets and timpani.

#### **Colby Undergraduate Research** Symposium May 2-3

Colby The College Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held Thursday, May 2, and Friday, May 3. James Gustave Speth, dean and professor of environmental policy and sustainable development at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, will give the symposium's keynote address. His lecture is titled "The Cascading of Environmental Consequences: Are We Running Out of Time?" and begins at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 1, in room 1 of the F.W. Olin Science Center,

Colby students from a range of programs and departments will present the results of their research in paper and poster presentations over the two days in the Smith, Whitney and Hurd rooms on the second floor of Roberts Building.

### **INFLATION:** Professors share their thoughts on grades at Colby



This graph shows the grades received versus the percentage of students who receive them. Grades are skewed toward the higher end of the scale. The most common grade given is a B. There are more A-pluses than D-minuses and F's combined.

chair Christine Wentzel and music department chair Eva Linfield agreed that the arts are more subjective than the sciences and the humanities. Grades in the arts "boil down to perceptions," explained Wentzel.

According to Wentzel, the theater and dance department just revised their curriculum last semester with the "intention to get closer to a more balanced distribution."

In music, said Linfield, "the standards have to be a little more fluid than in the humanities and sciences but not necessarily easier. I would think that our grading is too high, it slipped years ago, it is happening everywhere."

Linfield explained that in the music department, ensemble grades, such as those received in chorale and orchestra, and private lessons factor into the distribution. These grades are almost always A's.

The economics department has one of the more even distributions but is also one of the most popular disciplines on campus. The average GPA for economics majors is 3.3.

"You have to look to the curriculum and the level of rigor in the major. Also, you need to decide your role in servicing other areas such as non-majors. How do you evaluate a basic level of understanding? C's are legitimate grades-they show an average level of effort," said economics department chair Michael Donihue.

When writing a recommendation, economics professors will often include a student's rank within the major to give recruiters a better sense of how the student stands in relation to his or her peers, said Donihue.

The classics department, although much smaller than economics, also has a fairly even distribution.

"I never think of it as giving a grade to the student, but as writing down the grade they get," said classics department chair Kerill O'Neil. "To get into to Colby is unbelievably competitive. Should we be surprised students get A's?"

O'Neil also includes students' grade distribution relative to others in the recommendations he writes.

What can Colby do to stem grade compaction and avoid grade inflation? According to O'Neil, members of the Colby faculty tried to adjust Colby's teacher recommendation forms several years ago but nothing came of it. At Harvard University, faculty members have been asked to explain and justify their grading practices to start discussion and limit inflation. In lieu of a solution, professors can include students' relative position within their major on recommendations.

April 25, 2002

**Opinions Editor: Emma McCandless** 

Page

#### Editorials

A.

#### Grade distribution statistics must be made public

The prospect of grade inflation at Colby necessitates further discussion The statistics that afford discussion have been made confidential. By making these documents confidential, the community at large cannot have an educated conversation about grade inflation. It seems unlikely that grade inflation has passed over Colby, but the possibility remains.

The causes of grade inflation are manifold and nebulous and vary by discipline and institution. This week's article should indicate that Colby professors do not agree on the causes of grade compaction on campus. Professors can offer insight into their own professional prerogative and personal pedagogy but they cannot speak for others with certainty Speculation may provide feasible causal links, but a survey done when students and faculty have studied a decent data pool will render more concrete solutions.

How is this to be done? Make the data public. Allow conversation to take place. Invite faculty to discuss their pedagogy amongst their peers and discuss how they grade their students. Give students the data to have educated discussions about which professors are lenient graders and which are difficult. In so doing, patterns will emerge that will help make clear, despite differences in discipline and disparities in pedagogy, which professors do not grade fairly.

The faculty should write down how they grade their students and create a rubric for their classes. These documents could be shared and discussed with department chairs, the dean of faculty, and other professors Professors who write down how they grade their students, whether they choose to share it or not, will give their pedagogy substance and a litmus test they can refer to when questioning their own grading system. This will make clearer answers to questions such as, "how does this student match up?" or "what grade does this student deserve?"

Grade inflation is a national problem and all universities and colleges are susceptible. It is naïve to assume that grade inflation does not exist a Colby, but it is irresponsible to keep confidential statistics that could prove or disprove its existence. It behooves the dean of faculty and division chairs to make this data public.

#### Help smokers quit, but stop there

The Healthy Campus Committee (HCC) has noble goals in reducing the number of students who smoke at Colby. As we all know, smoking is terrible for you and the smokers at Colby would be better off if they guit. The HCC's proposal of having more and better-publicized programs available for students who want to quit would be an asset to the Colby community.

However, that is where the College's involvement in regulating student behavior should stop. Smoking may be a disgusting, harmful habit, but everyone at Colby is a consenting adult and has the right to engage in such behavior if they wish.

Dr. Melanie Thompson's suggestion that Colby look into reducing smoking by becoming a smoke-free campus is simply not feasible, and would have few real benefits. If the object is to protect the health of smokers, it is unrealistic to think that telling students not to smoke on school grounds would get them to see the error of their ways and quit the habit. If the object is to protect the health of non-smoking students by reducing sec ond-hand smoke, the proposal is excessive. Very few people risk health defects from walking past a group of smokers on the quad.

For the same reasons, the proposal of the HCC members to "require people to smoke in places which will have minimal effect on others," is equaly ill-advised. If the smokers by your door are bothering you, ask them to leave or move somewhere else. Imposing blanket restrictions on the rights of smokers is a poor solution to the problem of certain people's minor dis-

#### SGA can be held accountable

As student leaders, we, the SGA, are willing to consider all ideas to improve student government, but the Echo is wrong to assert, as it did in a recent editorial ("SGA avenues of accountability blocked," April 4) that SGA currently has no avenues of accountability.

Currently, dorm newsletters must be turned in by each Hall President at every meeting to the Director of Student Activities. Residents of any constituency can initiate impeachment proceedings against their representative(s) by filing a "petition of impeachment" signed by 20% of that constituency.

Furthermore, this year's Presidents' Council passed a bylaw that established at every meeting a "community forum"-a time in which any member of the Colby community, including students, can speak freely.

This year's Presidents' Council has also created a webmaster position so that meeting schedules and minutes can be easily posted on the web, in addition to passing a motion by Aimee Jack that Hall Presidents be evaluated by the residents every semester beginning next year.

We welcome constructive criticism of our work, but we ask the Echo to include all of the facts when doing so.

Leigh Cummings '04, Jay Trainor '04, Eliza Huleatt '05, Christine Jones '04, Shawn Legendre '04 Nick Markham '04, Thad Feeney '03, Erik Lisk '03, Jenn Withnell '04, Dawn Spinner '04, Peter Brush '03, Allison Kolkhorst '04, Zombor Zoltani '04, Alex Bean '05, Alicia Freese '04, Kendra Shank '02, Matt Ritter '04, Mike Shea

'04, Kelly Welch '04, Melanie Oullette

'02, Jennifer Coughlin '02, Alexandros

Aldous '02, Chris Suprenant '05,

Guerilla Girls situation a farce

Guerilla Girls (GGS) were paid by the

college to perform during Feminist

Fortnight. A group did show up but

they were not the GGS. Instead we got

a splinter group who have what

appears to be a very hostile relation-

masks to further obscure their identity.

During their performance they made

critical remarks about an individual

student and a Colby department.

Neither the individual or the depart-

ment knew this was coming nor were

who organized this farce is under-

standable. The administration of the

college however should have immedi-

ately made it clear that this was a seri-

ous breach of civility and expressed the

intention to never let something like

this to happen again. One can only

assume that the injured parties in this

case did not warrant the concern usu-

ally tendered to the objects of incivility.

matter the Echo might wish to rethink

its ban on anonymous letters and arti-

cles. We should all have the privilege to

Given the College's silence on the

Silence on the part of the people

they offered a chance to respond.

Whoever they were performed in

Let me get this straight. The

Kearney Shanahan '04

ship with the original.

speak without putting our name to the message-until we are safely out of town.

> Pete Moss History Department

#### Guy-Hamilton doesn't have the facts on Israel

American Perspective," by Matt Guy-Hamilton. In "Struggling on the knife's edge in the Middle East," the common, biased view of the "Arab-Israeli" conflict is portrayed. Virtually all the media in our country is already brimming full of these anti-Arab sentiments.

ing to Israel's antagonism in ways that are not constructive. But how does a dog that has been beaten, starved, and cooped up in an increasingly small cage act? What tools does it have to use against being oppressed? The answer is that it has nothing to do but risk its life and livelihood to overthrow the oppressor.

This article is full of half-truths

This letter is in response to "The

Yes, the Palestinians may be react-

which attempt to justify the United States support of its fledgling, Israel. More U.S. aid goes to Israel than any other state. For example, Arafat was offered a plan to regain lost Palestinian lands, by former Israeli Prime Minister Barak. Despite claims that it would return 97 percent of Palestine's former land, it is now commonly accepted that this figure was highly exaggerated.

And what of the Arabs anti-Semitism? Do they hate themselves?

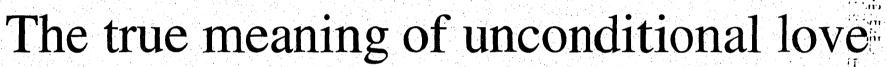
Because last time I checked, many groups of Arabs (for they are not a homogenous race) are descended from the very group of Semitic tribes which Israel is from. How is it that America is blind to

what the rest of the world clearly sees? Even the UN has agreed and passed a resolution to end Israel's occupation of Palestine. Israel has not complied with dozens UN resolutions for decades now ... and yet the US pays no attention.

With Israel committing increasingly more atrocious WAR CRIMES every day, completely shattering the Géneva Conventions, when will this end? Is Prime Minister Sharon's goal complete genocide? Ariel Sharon is taking such an extreme view that "hawkish" does n't begin to describe him. A couple hundred of Israel troops have already protested against atrocities they have been ordered to commit against Palestinians. With Israelis overcoming their own state's propaganda and try ing to halt the occupation, why can't we open our eyes?

In the coming years, Sharon will not be thought of as a strong, bold leader, but instead, he will be measured by the "leadership" he has directed-he will be seen as another Milosovic. We are allowing Sharon and the state of Israel to continue their bloody war of historical hatred. If we don't care about peace, don't we at least care about paying more for Mid-Eastern oil in an increasingly destabilizing region?

Josiah J. Taylor 🖽



Opinions

Uncommon Sense Emma McCandless

soothing dream. I look over at the clock: two in the morning.

Hundreds of thoughts start running through my mind. "Is she up already? I just went to bed three hours ago. She can't be hungry; she just drank five

exhausted eyes. At last I locate my to sleep right then and there. glasses and put them on as I trudge wearily toward the crib.

There she is, flipped on her back with tears the size of raindrops running down her red, hot cheeks. I pick

Everything in the entire house is so quiet except for the creaking of the rocker and the hungry sucking noise of Madison and her bottle.

Eventually her eyes start to slowly

#### comfort.

# · Learning to let go



"I've always been aware of the passage of time," one of my friends told me. "I've known what month and day it was, and how quickly the days were leading into one another. What I was- intimidating future I face with such n't always aware of is how precious trepidation, with such a tenacious grip that time was."

This weekend I shared a perfectly typical evening. I went to Freedom Café and then spent time in the apartments listening to my friends play guitar. It was an ordinary night, and yet it man's meet. For three years of my life was so filled with light and laughter. It was the feeling of being comfortable, of being safe, of being surrounded by good friends.

And I couldn't help but think about the time that was slipping away from us, even as we sat and laughed together, and the unstoppable chain of events that was rapidly leading towards the end of our Colby careers.

I tend to live with one foot constantly in the past, which is not surprising. I have no idea what struggles and joys the future holds. The past, although filled with some dark and painful areas, is familiar. I know the challenges of my past; I know I have lived through them.

Yet this affinity with the past is an elaborate lie. I've rafted rivers in Colorado, and now when I drive past them I think: yes, I remember that rapid. I remember that curve. But at the time I knew nothing of the waters. Every rapid, every turn, every slow drifting section was a surprise. It is only in retrospect that the past

becomes familiar. And of course, that unfamiliar and on the past, will in a short period of time become that past. Everything I fear today will someday become part of my larger story.

This weekend was my last woodsthe woodsman team has been a part of my daily existence. At times I wandered around the meet half in shock, thinking: "This is it, the last time I'll chop wood competitively, the last time I'll see the coaches and teams from the other schools, the last time I'll yell at my friends as they compete."

The shock was almost numbing. It made me wonder how we are ever able to love anything that doesn't last.

It is a question that is impossible to answer. One reply is that, fundamentally, everything changes. If we are to care about anything at all, it must be See LETTING GO continued on page 5

I take no credit for this column. It was written by a good friend of mine, who wishes to remain anonymous. A little over a year ago, I found out that my friend, who's like a sister to me, was pregnant. Her daughter was born on Oct. 24, 2001. Since then, my friend has shown strength and courage that blows me away every time I think about it. Now, in her own words, I would like to share what she has taught me-the true meaning of unconditional love.

As I sit on the sandy beach relaxing in the sun, drinks are being served to me on gold platters. All of a sudden I hear a baby cry from out of nowhere. I bolt up in bed, awakened from my

ounces of formula before falling asleep, and that was five hours ago. The doctor told me that she should be sleeping through the night, so why isn't she?"

Still wishing I could go back to the dream on the beach, I sleepily swing my legs over the side of the bed. I sit on the edge of the bed, hoping and praying that the cries from across the room will stop; instead they develop into louder and more agitated howls. Finally I convince myself to get out of the bed and peek over the side of the

Half asleep, I fumble around in the dark for my glasses on the nightstand next to my bed. I don't know why, because with or without them I won't be able to see anything through my

her up and try to soothe her back to sleep. This only makes her cry harder, so I decide to sit with her in the rocking chair and let her suck on her pacifier. As I attempt to put the pacifier in her mouth, she is wildly thrashing her hands back and forth struggling to push it away with both of her hands. Finally, out of ideas, I grab for her "in the middle of the night" bottle and pop off the cap.

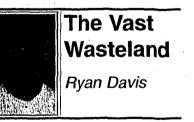
through a yawn. That's all Madison needs. As soon as the bottle touches her lips she stops crying, except for a few whimpers here and there, and sucks hungrily at her bottle. While I sit and rock her while she eats, I find it takes all of my strength not to fall back page 6

roll into the back of her head and the sucking sounds come to end. I take the bottle away from her mouth and watch as it moves up and down as if the bottle was still there. Holding the bottle up to the light I see that she has only drank an ounce of a five-ounce bottle. "You obviously weren't that hungry Madison, so why did you wake up screaming?" I say to the sleeping baby.

Very carefully, I get up from the "Here you go, Madison," I say rocking chair and walk over to the orib. I lay her down gently as not to wake her. Sleepily I stagger back to bad, ready to put myself back on the beach. No sooner do I get comfortable, than

See LOVE continued on "

### **One last pointless T** column



The impending conclusion of my four years at Colby has yet to really strike me. As I walk around campus every day, I scarcely think about how Mayflower Hill, the fascinating classes, and the wonderful people I know will soon be little more than a memory.

It almost seems as though I was more broken up when I was this close to the end of my senior year in high school, which is odd, because I

to get out. In contrast, Colby really has been (to use a cliché l never thought would actually prove true) the best four years of my life.

Yet even with 11 days of class left, I've yet to get all misty-eyed. Much like the Patriots' Super Bowl victory seemed in February, graduation doesn't seem entirely real. I know that on May 26, I'll be wearing a cap and gown, getting a diploma, and listening to that song that isn't "Pomp and Circumstance" for some reason, but it's hard to imagine myself actually doing it.

When I looked at the calendar and saw that I only have the opportunity to write two more "Vast

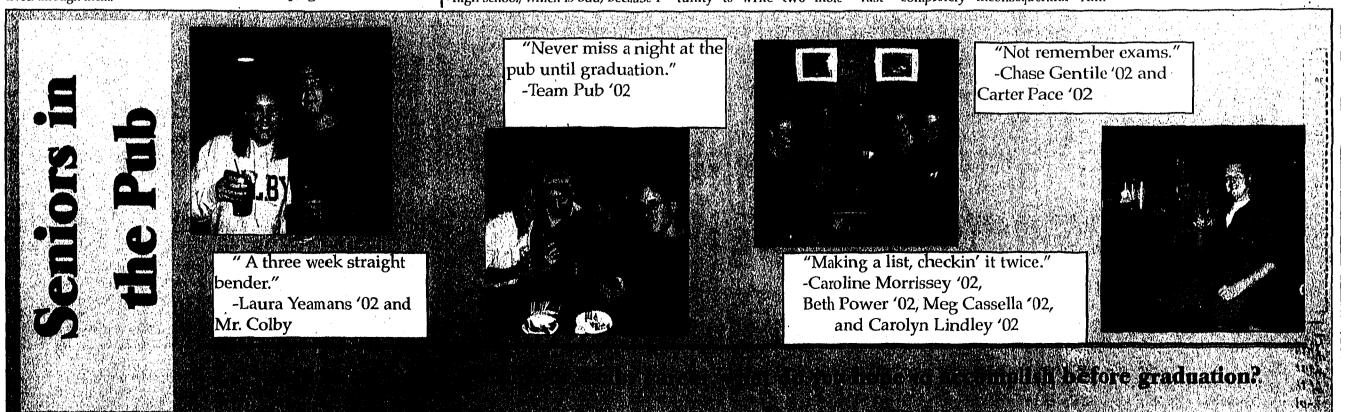
hated high school and couldn't wait Wastelands," the reality of the situa- bling about TV. Before I head off into tion nudged closer. I have been involved in the Echo in at least some capacity since September of my freshman year, and like a lot of other things about Colby, I've taken for granted the amazing, valuable, likely never-to-be-repeated ability to write whatever I want and have it printed.

> With that in mind, I'm going to depart from my recent trend of complaining about American culture and revert to the original intention of this column (which started with a little something I called "The decline and fall of MTV" in April 2000). I'd like to offer, for the last time, some completely inconsequential ram

the frightening clutches of the real world, here are some shows I really

\* "24." (Fox, Tuesdays, 9 p.m. Fl think I might be the only person in the world who watches this show, but it has quickly become fify favorite. Even if there were nothffig else good about it, the prentise would still be unbeatable. Government agent Jack Bauer (Keifer Sutherland) attempts to fell an assassination plot directed wit Senator David Palmer (Dentils Haysbert), the first black man to be See TV continued on page

6



# **Occupation is the root the problem**

By AMJAD TUFFAHA CONTRIBUTING WRITER

. I am writing in response to the article in last week's Echo by Matt Guy-Hamilton. I very often wish that Arafat would disappear somehow, so people who continuously blame him for everything would turn to the real prob-Jem. This simplistic approach to the conflict ignores Palestinian aspirations for statehood and freedom from occupation.

The root of the problem is not anti-Semitism, nor it is Arafat (who I admit is an incompetent leader). Anyway, there is nothing left of the Palestinain Authority after Israel destroyed all infrastructure, including police and administrative headquarters (and ironically, Israel asks for the Authority to crack down on militants at the same time).

'As a Palestinian, I tell you Arafat did not start the uprising (although he might have wanted to use it for his political purposes). The uprising came as a result of Palestinian frustration, and indeed started with unarmed protests and stone-throwing, to which the Israeli Army responded with live ammunition.

The so-called peace process did not achieve much for the Palestinians, and the creation of the Palestinian Authority was just a beautification of a brutal and humiliating occupation. Israel still maintains sovereignty over 80 percent of the West Bank and Gaza, including water resources, while illegal settlements continue to expand rapid-

Palestinians are still stateless, and they do not have the simple freedom of traveling inside their country. Besides, the refugee problem was completely ignored. Of course, skeptics will say, you were offered all that at Camp David and refused.

The media, along with some US and Israeli diplomats, have been propagating the idea of a generous offer at Camp David that was rejected by the greedy Palestinians. At Camp David, Palestinians were supposedly "offered" sovereignty over 94 percent of the West bank and Gaza, but this is after excluding the Jordan Valley area and the Dead Sea, along with all the borders. Of course, this offer excluded the illegal settlements established in the West Bank and Gaza, as well as the Jewish-only roads in the heart of this "Palestinian state" to connect these settlements.

Israel would also maintain its control over water sources in the territories. There was no compromise over Palestinian refugees whose right of return would be relinquished in

exchange of compensation (not from Israel but from the international community), and there was no compromise over Jerusalem. This would be the final status.

THE UPRISING CAME AS A RESULT OF PALESTINIAN FRUSTRA-TION, AND INDEED STARTED WITH UNARMED PROTESTS AND STONE-THROWING, TO WHICH THE ISRAELI ARMY RESPONED WITH AMMUNITION.

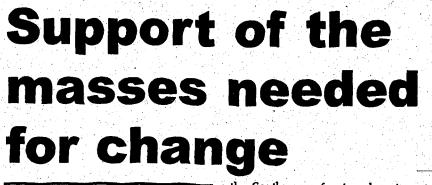
In the words of John Mearsheimer, political science professor at the University of Chicago: "It is hard to imagine the Palestinians accepting such a state. Certainly no other nation in the world has such curtailed sovereignty." (Source: "The Impossible Partition," New York Times, January 11, 2001).

Some Israeli diplomats attempt to mislead people by saying that the Palestinian rejection of this generous offer implies a rejection of the existence of Israel. Robert Malley, Clinton's special assistant for Arab-Israeli affairs, who participated in the Camp David negotiation, refutes this argument.

"The Palestinians were arguing for the creation of a Palestinian state based on the June 4, 1967, borders, living alongside Israel," Malley told the Times on July 8, 2001. "They accepted the notion of Israeli annexation of West Bank territory to accommodate settlement blocs. They accepted the principle of Israeli sovereignty over the Jewish neighborhoods of East Jerusalem-neighborhoods that were not part of Israel before the Six Day War in 1967. And, while they insisted on recognition of the refugees' right of return, they agreed that it should be implemented in a manner that protected Israel's demographic and security interests by limiting the number of returnees. No other Arab party that has negotiated with Israel...ever came close to even considering such compromis-

Guy-Hamilton tries to draw sympathy to Israel's campaign of aggression by calling the occupation selfdefense. Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 and defies several

See OCCUPATION continued on page 6



Ward's Words Geoff Ward

For some reason, expressions of queer pride such as rallies, chalkings, and other awareness events on the Colby campus are met with hostility and anger from the student body. Not overt anger in any way, but it instead takes the form of grumblings in the dining halls and dorms.

During Pride Week, the demonstration around the flag pole to speak out against anti-queer hate crimes produced a number of reactions from students, many of them complaints about their walk to class being disrupted, or rumors of students or tour groups getting screamed at through the bullhorn being used. A rumor was also widespread that the American flag was taken down to display the queer pride flag.

Although I question the logic and intelligence of students who would take offense at such a rally, or who would believe the outrageous rumors concerning the conduct of the demonstrators, I think that issue and my sentiments concerning it were sufficiently covered in the Echo's editorial two weeks ago.

Instead I would like to focus on what can be done from the point of view of the demonstrators and activists on campus to make sure their political movement is successful. Now, it can easily be argued that the activists aren't the ones who should change; the ignorant students should be the ones to change, and that's what the demonstrations are trying to accomplish. I would agree that in an ideal situation this would be true, but the fact is that in reality it is the tactics of activists that must be tailored and changed to best gain the support of the masses and those in power.

No minority civil rights movement in history has been successful without significant support from the majority. If Martin Luther King, Jr, had not had the political savvy to make sure that white clergy who marched with him in

the South were front and center and therefore among the first hit with spray from fire hoses and attack dogs, then he would have had more difficulty persuading northern whites and politicians that a Civil Rights Bill was necessary

I bring this up because it relates back to the students who were angered following the flag demonstration. I've noticed during my time here at Colby. that for some reason people who would otherwise support a queer civil rights agenda seem to be turned off by. the manner in which that agenda is. displayed here.

Let's face it, Colby is probably the most liberal community any of us will ever live in for the rest of our lives, Taking that into consideration, what. must our conclusion be when so much of the campus seems reluctant to actively support queer rights initiatives? Somehow, the approach taken by queer rights activists in furthering, their cause has alienated many who would seem predisposed to support them.

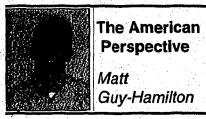
I'm sure many will respond to this idea by saying that the queer community shouldn't have to conform to mainstream society in order to get the rights they deserve in our country. Such a response would be missing the point. In no way am I advocating conforming to mainstream heterosexual society; that would be counterproductive.

Instead I am simply stating that it is necessary to work within the confines of the system, and our systemwhether we're talking about Congress or the Colby administration—is dominated by white heterosexuals. Change, whether in admissions policy, the hiring of professors, or in awareness of queer issues will occur only when the activists on campus have become politically savvy enough to elicit vocal support from the entire campus.

After all, the issues discussed during Pride Week were not queer issues, but human issues. The more the masses are made to understand this, the more progress we will see.

Geoff Ward is the Managing Editor of the Echo.

# Shall we take two steps back?



, · I was dismayed last week when I read of the retrograde agenda now being put forth by the Coalition for Institutional Accountability. The call for a segregated multicultural housing facility especially disappointed me, and serves as a reminder that identity politics, the system where one's individual value is a function of one's race, ethnicity, sexual preference, or gender, still holds favor among certain groups. 11 Despite Martin Luther King's call for an America where individuals "will not be judged by the color of their skin (or their sexual preference, gender etc) but by the content of their character," the appeal for the opposite persists even on this campus. Je If this campus of 1800 cannot escape from the malignancy of identity politics, and move towards a community where people choose to be and are identified as "Colby student" rather than "Queer Colby student" (insert any modifier) then what hope exists for a nation of 250-plus million people? Neither our ancestry nor our sexual preferences should serve as the determinant of social classification, and allowing either to do so only allows this campus (and this nation) to be divided into irritable clumps according

to inherently meaningless characteristics. That amounts to an abdication of our national creed.

Judging from the Coalition's agenda, it appears as though every generation is doomed to fight the same battle against the insidious doctrine of "separate but equal," supposedly proscribed by the Supreme Court's 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Now, however, the rhetoric of separation emanates not from the likes of Orvil Faubus, George Wallace, or other segregationist firebrands, but rather from groups that have fought for decades to escape a system of predestination governed by inborn characteristics.

As Ralph Ellison wrote, "Our task is that of making ourselves individuals," and only by defining individuals based on their moral composition and their personal achievements can we truly distance ourselves from the mistakes of the past."

By creating a "safe haven," as the report so euphemistically refers to it, for non-white, non-straight students, multicultural housing would repudiate any claim Colby has to fostering a diverse campus, and would only reinforce any ignorant prejudices that prevent students from living in an atmosphere of mutual comity instead of mutual tension. Suddenly, our multicultural campus becomes monocultural; fertile ground for the misunderstanding and contempt that ignorance breeds.

counterintuitive their demands are? Build a multicultural housing facility so we can classify and divide ourselves based on what country we come from, who our ancestors were, what God we worship, or who we sleep with? I would expect this divisive idea would resonate with the proponents of pogroms and ghettos, but for such a policy to even be suggested on this supposedly forward-looking campus does not even seem possible.

Have we not learned from the immaturity of our past when groups of people were deemed incapable of living as part of society and were separated out into segregated communities, segregated schools, segregated bathrooms, or worse, imprisoned or exterminated? I have always operated under the impression that we strive to eliminate these historical embarrassments, not to encourage them.

Ostensibly, the Coalition believes in "strengthening Colby's curricular and academic commitment to multiculturalism and diversity," and yet they champion a system of punctuated cultural equilibrium; does the college maintain actual diversity by penning up non-white, queer, dry, students in one isolated corner of the campus? Nonsense. Diversity must be a shared experience or it will become another empty word. If we desire diversity, and I believe that most people do, then we must embrace all of its benefits, and learn to overcome its Does the Coalition realize just how hardships rather than sweep them

under the proverbial bed. The Coalition desires some kind of perverted, qualified diversity that undermines all of diversity's benefits and erases much of the progress we have made towards overcoming diversity's hardships.

All-boys, all-W.A.S.P., all-black, alldry, or all-queer, these living arrangements only deprive us of the most meaningful aspect of college life, one that the administration can't even charge us for: the eclectic collection of thoughts and experiences that is our fellow students. All special-interest housing, regardless of label, is a wellintentioned bad idea, an ill-advised paradox of a liberal arts education.

Ideally, we must learn to coexist with people of different races, lifestyles, opinions, and beliefs. In order to begin, we must first resist the temptation to segregate ourselves in this increasingly multicultural world. Identity politics have no place in this enlightened age, and those who cling to this old bulwark of segregation (Al Sharpton, Jerry Falwell, and our very own Coalition for Institutional Accountability) jeopardize all of our social progress. So I ask, shall we take one step forward or take two steps back?

Matt Guy-Hamilton is a weekly columnist for the Echo.

# **COOT<sup>2</sup>**, the **COOT<sup>2</sup>** Committee and diversity at Colby

#### **By ROB BELCHER CONTRIBUTING WRITER**

April is an incredibly busy month for many different groups and departments involved in extracurricular aspects of Colby College. April brings room draw, SGA elections, HR selections and COOT<sup>2</sup> Leader selections. April has also been a busy month for what I'd like to call a sort of diversity movement that's been sweeping campus.

I'd like to start by stating that the exterior image of Colby is not one of significant diversity. I'd also like to state that I think this diversity movement is a great thing, if done appropriately and effectively.

. I'd ALSO like to say that despite the lack of visible diversity, if you really get to know people on this campus, like I

will instantly know that Colby is actually quite diverse. People come from all over, not just Boston, have participated in some radically different events, activities, sports, protests, internships, etc., and in general have all kinds of great and different ideas about a spectrum of issues. In this capacity, I feel Colby is a diverse institution of higher learning,

I think Colby has addressed the perceived lack of diversity and diversity awareness on campus poorly. And now this inefficient allocation of effort and resources (my econ professors should be proud) to address the prob-

feel I have in my four years here, you Colby life, and one that I deem to be extremely important.

The 2002 COOT<sup>2</sup> Leader selections came out a week ago or so, and I feel the COOT<sup>2</sup> Committee made several serious mistakes because of the above notion of perceived lack of diversity on campus.

For those uninvolved in the program, the COOT<sup>2</sup> Committee is a selfselecting group, that is, the Committee selects new members each year to join the Committee. Then the Committee conducts interviews and selects the one hundred or so leaders for the following autumn's COOT<sup>2</sup> from the applicant pool of interested students.

Hallen, and Assistant Director of Student Activities Leanne Burnham have made a serious effort over the past few years to improve upon this integral part of the Colby experience, but I think they all have gone seriously astray.

A new part of the COOT<sup>2</sup> program is going to be implemented this coming fall to deal with the perceived lack of diversity and diversity awareness at Colby.

This new program is an intense student-to-student diversity, or community building, workshop designed to be led by COOT<sup>2</sup> leaders for incoming students to open themselves to new



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**LETTING GO:** Wright discusses moving on

continued from page 4

something that doesn't last. Another reply is that we don't have a choice, as human beings we care about situations and other people, and the fact that they are temporary cannot stop us.

Finally, there are some things that remain. Everything changes, yes, and that includes ourselves. I'm not the same person I was stepping fresh onto this campus four years ago. I've changed, but the nights of light and laughter, the time so precious that we are tricked into taking it for granted because recognizing the value is almost painful, have not changed. Friendship endures, although the manifestations change a hundred times a day. What is valuable lasts.

My mother has gone through a divorce and several painful breakups. In high school I remember asking her advice about how to let go of some-

thing precious to you, how you can bear to part with what is meaningful.

She replied with a story about our ancestors in Denmark. Apparently, in order to conserve room in the graveyard, members of the same family would be buried on top of one another. As they decomposed, the bodies would melt into one another, truly becoming part of the same earth.

"That may be slightly morbid," she warned me, "but I think of it in my life. I carry something of everyone I've ever loved with me. The things you share, . those experiences and hopes, don't just disappear. They sink into you. And even when the person is gone, they remain."

Briana Wright is a columnist for the Echo.

فليتهج والمحمة معاصرين وتنافع فالتنام ويتهين العامعت ويوسيهم



### .TV: "Vast Wasteland" comes full circle with more TV talk

continued from page 4

nominated to run for president by a major party. The twist: the show takes place entirely on one day, divided into 24 one-hour, real-time episodes.

That's the kind of idea that can result in either ingenious originality or disastrous failure. Luckily for viewers (read: me), "24" has maintained the same level of brilliance whroughout every episode. The writing is assured, innovative and intelligent; the acting (especially from neglected, former B-movie star Sutherland) is impeccable; and the direction manages to keep all the myriad subplots clear and riveting.

I appreciate a show that rewards the attention of the viewer, and "24" has consistently rewarded me more than I ever expect from a TV show. Each week, I'm surprised, excited, gripped and even emotionally moved by the subplots involving Bauer and Palmer's beleaguered families.

In "24's" world, it is currently 9 p.m. and the clock keeps ticking. If you want to try to jump into the show for its sure-to-be-amazing conclusion, here's a brief rundown of the first 20 hours. Bauer was a former military operative assigned to take out Bosnian war criminal Victor ple start watching, because other-Drazen (Dennis Hopper) during the war in Kosovo. Senator Palmer authorized the mission, which resulted in Drazen's wife and daughter being killed, but as Bauer has just found out, not Drazen himself.

In revenge, Drazen's family plans to assassinate Palmer on the day of

the California primary, as well as killing Bauer and his wife and daughter. Meanwhile, Palmer must deflect a scandal orchestrated by his shiftless campaign donors involving false murder accusations against his son, Bauer's daughter has been locked up for a drug deal she wasn't involved in, and Bauer's wife is being trailed by Drazen's assassins. It's all pure entertainment, and wonderfully engaging. I hope peo-

I'D LIKE TO OFFER, FOR THE LAST TIME, SOME COMPLETELY INCONSEQUENTIAL RAMBLINGS ABOUT TV. BEFORE | HEAD OFF INTO THE FRIGHTENING CLUTCHES OF THE REAL WORLD, HERE ARE SOME SHOWS I REALLY LIKE.

wise, it might share the fate of "Murder One," another great weekly cliffhanger show that I loved, but was canceled several years ago. Tick, tick, tick ...

\* "The Osbournes" (MTV, all the time). I can't believe no one has mentioned this show on the opinions page before, because it seems like

feels odd for me to praise it because I normally hate both reality shows and MTV, and the concept of a new MTV reality show struck fear in my heart.

How wrong I was. "The Osbournes" is without a doubt one of the strangest and most perversely fascinating shows on the air. The reason I hate most reality shows is because they don't involve any kind of reality. Twelve people on an island eating bugs and voting each other off in an attempt to win\$1 million is actually, if you think about it, the precise opposite of reality.

On the other hand, putting a camera in Ozzy Osbourne's house as he takes out the trash, bickers with his ultra-weird family and throws ham at his neighbors is a lot closer to reality (if you want to count Ozzy as a real person). It is also a riot.

I'm sure the success of this show offers some kind of commentary on fame and celebrity in America, but I'll settle for watching Ozzy shuffle around and mumble incoherently.

\* "The X-Files" (Fox, Sunday, 9 p.m.) Again, I think I'm the only person who still cares about this show, but I think it's great (though not nearly as great as it once was). This season has focused a lot more on peripheral characters Doggett (Robert Patrick) and Reyes (Annabeth Gish), with Scully pushed into a supporting role and Mulder inexplicably absent (really, all they've said is that he's "gone away"). I like Doggett and Reyes, but they're never going to be Mulder

everyone watches it, unlike "24." It and Scully, two of TV's greatest characters.

> Casting changes have hurt the show, as has the impression that the writers have kind of run out of ideas. But after last Sunday's surprising episode, in which the Lone Gunmen were all killed by a terrorist's genetically engineered virus, it is clear the end is near, and I have high hopes for the concluding four-part episode beginning next Sunday. If nothing else, Mulder is going to be back for the finale, so if you've lost track of the show, you might want to at least come back for that.

> Next year, there will be a big hole in Fox's Sunday night lineup after the consistently excellent "The Simpsons" and "Malcolm in the Middle." I propose moving "24" to Sunday nights, exchanging the great show of the 1990s with possibly the great show of the next decade.

I watched the very first episode of "The X-Files" on September 10, 1993, and was immediately hooked. I think I've missed maybe four episodes since then, and the show has had a profound impact on my imagination. Looking at several short stories I've written for my creative writing classes, I frequently see the show's moody, ironically humorous influences. It seems appropriate that it is going off the air the same month as my graduation. To use one final, painful-but-apt-cliché, all good things must come to an end.

Ryan Davis is the editor in chief of the Echo. In case you haven't already guessed, he is a big dork.

do I hear movement and a short cry sleep, go back to

**LOVE:** A young mother shares.

sleep!" Of course this EVEN THOUGH doesn't work, and I find myself getting out MADISON HAS of bed for the second BEEN UP ALL time.

her story

continued from page 4

I don't even try to NIGHT AND HAS calm her down; I just go right for the bottle. This time though, even the bottle doesn't work. I reach for the pacifier and turn on SIGHT OF MY FACE the small CD player next to us. Bach quiet- LETS ME KNOW ly comes out from the SHE IS WORTH speakers. I get up from the rocker and hold EVERYTHING I DO.

Madison close, bounc-ing up and down and singing to her. Soon, Madison is quietly talking to herself with her eyes closed. At last she appears to be asleep, sucking on her pacifier. I stay still and rock her to make sure she is asleep. Finally, about an hour and a half after Madison first woke up, I crawl back into bed and fall back asleep.

The next thing I know it's 6:30 a.m. from across the room. "No! I just put and I can hear squeals and cooing. I you down! Go back to sleep, go back to know Madison is awake, and for good, too. I don't bother to

PON Page 5

get out of bed right away because I know she is fine and probably trying to eat the stuffed bunny that is in her crib. I decide 'it' is DECIDED TO WAKE time to get""üp myself and feed UP EARLY, SEEING Madison her break-HER SMILE AT THE fast.

When I look over the side of the crib, Madison stops 'eatthe burny, ing smiles at me and lets out a big happy squeal. "Good

.

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morning, Madison," I say. "I hope you slept well." I pick her up and take her to the kitchen so we can start our day.

Even though Madison has been up all night and has decided to wake up early, seeing her smile at the sight of my face lets me know that she is worth everything I do. .....

## **OCCUPATION:** Tuffaha defends Arab position

#### continued from page 5

UN resolutions calling for withdrawal. Some Israelis object to the term "occupied" and prefer the term "disputed territories" despite these resolutions.

There is a contradiction here: did Israel take over these territories in "self-defense" or to gain land? Israel clearly did not annex these territories (because that would mean that those dirty Arabs would have to become citizens of Israel). However, it launched a policy of building settlements on confiscated lands.

Clearly, Israel wants territory but would like for people living in the West Bank and Gaza to leave somehow. As for the self-defense argument, let me remind you that the Soviet Union's occupation of Eastern Europe was called self-defense too.

egacy of persecution of lews to portray Israel as a victim. It saddens me that the label anti-Semitic is being misused to block criticism of Israeli policy. I just wished Guy-Hamilton would be more sensitive to other people, instead of using language such as "What kind of state could possibly be built on a culture such as this?" I can assure Guy-Hamilton that he can find equally degrading and racist remarks on the other side. The Great Rabbi Oviadah Yosef called Arabs snakes and called for their annihilation, while recently Israel's Justice Minister Shitreet told Israeli television that he wishes the Israeli army killed more Arabs in the Jenin Refugee Camp (where a terrible massacre just took place). Indeed, the Israeli army is committing war crimes in the territories despite its claims that it does not target civilians. Consider what journalist Michael Finkel reports from the Karni check point in Gaza: "I spent two weeks at Karni during daylight hours, and in my time there, the Israeli Army fired live ammunition almost every day. ... On occasion the shots were fired when cars or buses needed to enter or exit the settlement; at other times I could ascertain no reason for the shooting. Not once did I see or hear a single shot from the Palestinian side. Never during the time I spent at Karni did an Israeli soldier appear to be in mortal danger. Nor was either an Israeli soldier or settler even slightly injured. In that two-week period, at least 11 Palestinians were killed during the day at Karni." (Source: "Playing War" by Michael Finkel, New York Times

Magazine, December 24, 2000.) Also consider what Relief Works Agency Commissioner general Peter Hansen has to say on Israel targeting ambulances: "We are talking about four drivers being killed, three doctors being killed, 122 doctors and drivers injured. I would strongly suggest that when 185 ambulances have been hit, including 75 percent of UNRWA's ambulances, one of our staff was killed in an ambulance, this is not the result of stray bullets by mistake, and this can only be targeting ambulances."

"Yesterday at this spot the Israelis shot eight young men, six of whom were under the age of 18," writes Chris Hedges in "Gaza Diary." "One was twelve...Children have been shot in other conflicts I have covered...but I Guy-Hamilton uses the terrible have never before watched soldiers entice children like mice into a tran and murder them for sport." These are not isolated events. They constitute a shoot-to-kill policy employed by the Israeli Army. These vier crimes committed by Israel also include house demolitions; which is an old policy that Israel has employed before the uprising in Jerusalem against Arabs for failing to obtain construction permits (Arabs are never issued construction permits in Jerusalem). According to UNRWA; since September 2000, the Israeli army has demolished 655 houses in the refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, containing 5,124 people. In my hometown of Nablus, where people are still under siege with no electricity or water, the Israeli army used buildozers to clear the way for the tanks into the old town area, taking down houses with their residents inside. My uncle's modest shop was in one of these buildings razed to the ground. The motive behind these demolitions is again "security reasons" just like it is the motive for destroying thousands of olive groves (the livelihood of many Palestinians). According to the Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, in total, some 2200 acres of orchards as well as planted fields and uncultivated land were destroyed. In the words of Noam Chomsky, Israeli policies in the territories are a manifestation of an apartheid system. It is unfortunate that in this world, might is always right. There can be no other logic.

## **SHOC Corner**

#### Your health questions answered by Student Health On Campus

Q. My boyfriend and I have been dating for a two years. He was always kind of aggressive with me when he got angry, but I just figured it was my fault. Recently, though, he has gotten to be more aggressive with me and I am getting scared. What can I do to make him stop?

A. There is no formula for putting an end to dating violence. It is important for you to realize that this is not your fault and that you did nothing to precipitate this violence. There seem to be a few directions you could take to try to put an end to this violence. The first suggestion is that you call the Family Violence Project helpline (1-800-498-1930) where a trained volunteer can offer information and assistance.

Due to the fact that your question has not given any specifics as to the nature of the aggression or the seriousness; therefore, any advice I give would not be tailored to your specific situation. Therefore, another thing I would recommend in heterosexual relationships, with males abusing temales. Dating violence can is visiting a counselor, such as one at the Health Center x3394. A counselor will happen in all relationships and can be perpetrated by males or females in hetbe better able to advise you in this situation because he or she is trained to deal with cases such as yours and because he or she can get to know the specifics of your case and give you appropriate options. The options I will provide here are for people with varying degrees of abuse. One option would be to report the abuse to the police. If you are dealing with

a very serious form of abuse or if you think that leaving your partner will cause him or her to get more violent with you the police can offer you more protection than the other options.

Along with this, as I mentioned before, meet with a counselor. Another route would be for one to seek counseling and to end the relationship. This option is not a good idea if you feel threatened by your partner's reaction to your decision to break up. In a case like this, a counselor can help you find the option that is the safest for yourself.

If you do not want to break up, a counselor can suggest other ways for you to end the violence such as couples therapy, etc. However, it is important for you to see the counselor first to hear his or her recommendations for how you should handle the situation.

It is very important to remember that dating violence does not only happen erosexual or homosexual relationships.

To submit your health questions, see the SHOC CORNER question box in the student center.

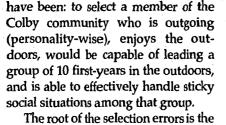
### **COOT:** Suggestions for improving COOT<sup>e</sup> committee

continued from page 5

- I know for a fact that COOT<sup>2</sup> leader selections this year were based almost entirely on an applicant's ability to lead and manage this type of workshop. I know of three specific examples of wonderful Colby students who live for/in the outdoors (especially in Maine), have extensive leadership and outdoor medical training, have trip
- leading experience, and were not selected for the above reason. In my mind these three people are the very essence of COOT<sup>2</sup>.

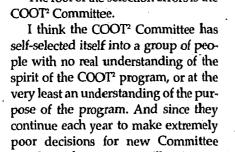
Instead of ONLY making selections based on the applicant's ability to lead this new diversity/community building workshop, I think selections should continue to be as they always

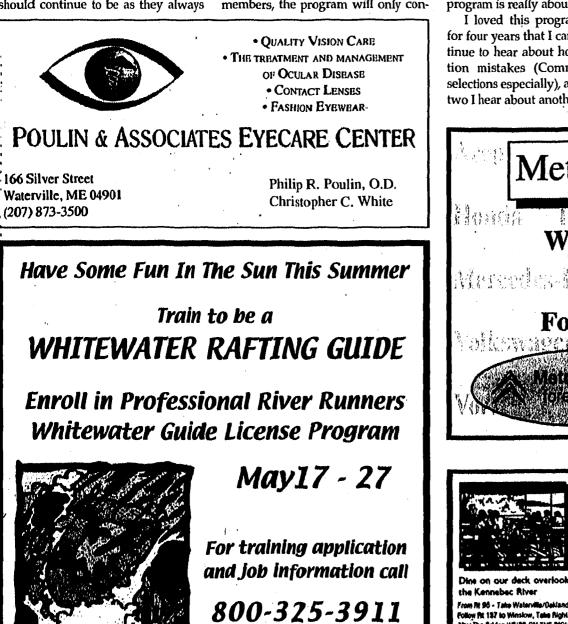
(207) 873-3500



COOT<sup>2</sup> Committee.

self-selected itself into a group of people with no real understanding of the spirit of the COOT<sup>2</sup> program, or at the very least an understanding of the purpose of the program. And since they continue each year to make extremely poor decisions for new Committee members, the program will only con-





tinue to deteriorate into a mire of bureaucracy and poor decisions.

I have again, three examples of phenomenal Committee member candidates who pretty much define the COOT<sup>2</sup> experience, who were not selected several years in a row after they had gained much COOT<sup>2</sup> leadership experience. Instead three firstyears, who had only participated in, and never led a COOT<sup>2</sup> trip, were selected.

Where is the program integrity in that? A fifth of the Committee is now making decisions that affect 400 incoming freshmen and 200 upperclassmen, when they have no idea what the program is really about!

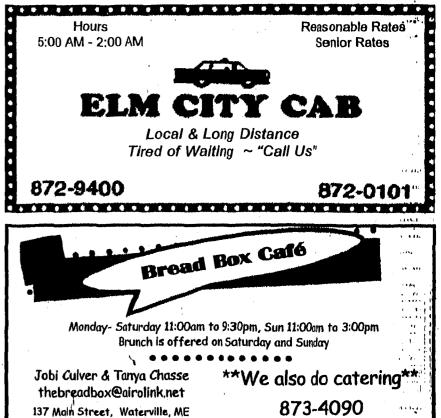
I loved this program so intensely for four years that I can't stand to continue to hear about horrendous selection mistakes (Committee member selections especially), and every day or two I hear about another amazing per-

son who was not selected for no reason I can see.

I challenge the COOT<sup>2</sup>Leaders and especially the COOT<sup>2</sup> Committee and Lisa Hallen and Leanne Burnham to really think about where they want this program to go in the future and what need they want it to serve for the firstyears. If you want this fantastic program that has set Colby apart from all other schools in the nation and set the precedent for hundreds of subordinate outdoor orientation programs at other schools to turn into just another P.C. program, then continue in your current direction by selecting under-skilled, weak-personalitied, minimally-motivated-but-diversity-aware leaders.

But if you want to welcome firstyears in the best possible way, think really, really hard. Realize the depth and impact of each of your decisions and fix it.







Äpril 25, 2002

## Earth Day brings 13 hours of music to Frat Row

STAFF WRITER

<sup>2</sup> A tremendous blitz of musical acts filled Frat Row from 1 p.m. to 2 a.m. in last Saturday's Earth Day celebration. The event coordinators could not have asked for better weather; with the sun shining and clear blue skies, only the occasional gusts of wind interrupted the near-perfect day. Even when the temperature dipped slightly as Saturday turned to Sunday, no one seemed to pay it much notice.

"Donned in spring attire and promoting earth awareness through mug sales, a small crowd of at least 20 student always seemed to enjoyed the festivities throughout, dancing the day (and the night) away with diverse musical acts from Meek and Hauser's folk and bluegrass tunes to the heavier lams of the Massachusetts-based Mifacle Orchestra.

""One of the day's highlights came early with a rather solid performance by"Jon Meek on banjo and Dave Hauser on guitar and vocals. The duo no exception. performed an extended program of Bluegrass and folk tunes, including some made famous by Johnny Cash, saying humorously, "Our set ran out eight songs ago."

""The sound crew's fantastic job durplaying of both players, as well as the clarity in Dave's vocals. He gave sounded so good!"

By MICHAEL GREENBERG associate Jordan Benissan on percussion, as well the occasional vocalist, performed a mix influenced by African rhythms, fusion, and funk grooves.

The combo, which had some very strong moments and incredible solos, was not in my opinion as engaging as some of the other acts. Many of its jams were over 20 minutes long, which was often amazing, but the band lacked the range of dynamics necessary to sustain an intense musical experience.

However, the group was able to effectively drop down to nothing except for drums and percussion and gradually build up to loud, intense, pulsing improvisations, and during these moments the group was both impressive and eclectic.

As the night wound to a close, the Miracle Orchestra returned to campus again, bringing its blend of jazzy, funky, rockin' jams, saying, "you guys work on the kegs ... we're gonna kick it." This four-piece ensemble always pleases the crowd, and this night was

Having seen the Miracle Orchestra once before, I noticed a distinct change in their style. While the group still combined funky drumming, solid bass lines, pulsing guitar riffs, and creative saxophone licks, they also feaing the entire day added to the tight tured synthesizers more prominently than previous performances.

At one point, the sax player samkudos to the crew saying, "I never pled short riffs and over-dubbed them with new riffs to create a mysterious ""Sankofa, a lively jam band com- reverberation and echo effect. In the posed of bass, rhythm and lead gui- same song, the drummer stopped tars, drums, and African drumming playing the kit and started improvis-



Bitch and Animal play an evening concert for the Earth Day festivities.

ing with a drum machine to fuse both conventional and unconventional musical ideas.

While the group maintained its core sound that makes its grooves so catchy and danceable, the additional synthesized bits showed the Miracle Orchestra's fresh, progressive, and unique creativity.

The celebration of music certainly never went without enthusiasm. From the large banner declaring "Earth Week," to the commendable sound

crew, to the numerous students helping set up each group, and of course the musicians themselves. The event successfully brought bands from near and afar to celebrate the arrival of spring, the earth, and, more impor-

tantly, the community. From the perspective of those dancing in front of the stage, it was great fun, but perhaps the residents of Pierce, Drummond, and other Frat Row dorms couldn't help but thinking after ten hours of music, "couldn't they have held this down by the shell?"

The concert certainly was more visible than most college performances, being right in some students' front yard, but it seems that was the intent. Whether or not the music was good, and most of it did have something compelling to offer, no one could tune out the celebration. The purpose, it seems, was to say affirmatively, "Earth Day is here, it's festive, and we want you to know about it."

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#### Thursday, 4/25

•Women's Studies Colloquium Series - Whitney Roberts 4:00-•Ted Cohen Lecture -Lovejoy 215 4:00-6:00 p.m. Lecture by Henk Folmer -Miller Library 014 5:30-6:45 •Women's Group Film Series Lovejoy-202-7:00-9:00-p.m. •Sirens invitational - Lorimer Chapel 8:00-11:00 p.m. Junior Class Karaoke Night -Spa Cotter Union 9:00 p.m.-•SGA Film "Vanilla Sky" -Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m.

#### Friday, 4/26

 International Coffee Hour -Mary Low Coffeehouse 4:30-6:00 p.m. •SGA Film "Vanilla Sky" -Lovejoy 100 7:00-9:00 p.m. • The LMng" - Runnals Union 🚟 Strider Theater 7:30 p.m. Akrobatik with opening act III Natural - Spa Cotter Union 9:00 p.m. •SGA Film "Vanilla Sky" -Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m. •EVE - A Cappella Performance - Mary Low Coffeehouse 10:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, 4/27

•Drawn from a Family - Entire Museum Art Museum 6:00-9:00 p.m. •SGA Flim "Vanilla Skv" -Loveloy 100 7:00-9:00 p.m. International Extravaganza ->> Page Commons Room Cotte Union 7:30-9:30 p.m. •Collegium Musicum -Lorimer Chapel 7:30 p.m. •"The Living" - Runnals Union Strider Theater 7:30 p.m. •Arlsing - Mary Low Coffeehouse 9:00 p.m. •SGA Film "Vanilla Sky" -Lovejoy 100 9:30-11:30 p.m.

## Spring BMR even stronger than fall edition

#### BY HANNAH EMERY STAFF WRITER

<sup>ob</sup>T must confess that I have always had a soft spot for Broadway. If you want to make me enjoy your play, set it to music and it'll automatically get a

recovered quickly and the rest of the show was strong.

Particular high points were "Jet Song" from "West Side Story" and the disturbingly-funny number "Big Ass Rock" from "The Full Monty," as well as the company numbers "Fame" and "Do You Hear the People Sing?"

**Colby Dancers performance** creates mixed feelings

#### **By CRISTINA JALERU** STAFF WRITER

Colby Dancers must have put a lot of work into their show " Cloud Nine" but somehow it was still not enough to help us jump along most of those clouds with them. At points I felt like I was dragged rather than hopping over to the next cloud.

The show consisted of nine music from "The Matrix." pieces. The first one was a cute tap number on the music from a work in progress since last year, "Singin' in the Rain." The umbrel- this latest, polished, perfected las did not always open at the form worked like charm. The cosright time, but I would have glad- tumes were perfect and matched ly jumped on stage to get soaked with them because it was enjoyable.

BRAD SEYMOUR / THE COLBY ECHO

few brownie points from me.

That said, I had high expectations when I went into BMR on Friday night. The first-semester show was so good that I found myself wondering whether the second incarnation could five up to it. However, I came away feeling that BMR Spring 2002 was the strongest one I've seen yet.

 The choice of songs was excellent, striking a nice balance between old and new, light and serious. The somewhat dated material from traditional shows like "The Sound of Music" and "West Side Story" was balanced by inclusions from "Aida," "The Lion King" and "Rent."

The revolution and marginalized children discussed in, respectively, "Do You Hear the People Sing?" from "Les Miserables" and "Bui Doi" from "Miss Saigon" were balanced by a song about Edgar Allen Poe from "Snoopy!" and the requisite cheesy tove song, "You're the Top," from \*Anything Goes."

? The cast in this semester's BMR .was very good - every voice was right on-target, and there was a very visible air of camaraderie within the group. Despite a weak opening number, "The Lion King's" "Circle of Life," they

Performers were Sean "Tex" Camp '05, Jordan Finley '02, Mike Haley '04, Meg Musser '05, Jon Nickerson '04,

Mikhaila Noble '02, Anne Olmsted '04, Terry Packard '02, Ashley Reid '02, Steve Sarno '04, Andrea Taylor '03, and Alison Thacker '02, with Haley, Taylor and Thacker directing. Music was provided by Gerry Wright, Tony Shay and Jimmy Howe.

On a final note, although the numbers were obviously chosen months ago, some of them had a strange topicality to current events around the campus. The two that struck this chord with me most noticeably were "My Body" from "The Life," which seemed to tap into the same spirit that united those who stood outside Miller Library last Monday night in a demonstration against sexual assault, and "Do You Hear the People Sing?"

As I listened to this latter number, which beseeches citizens of France to come and join the Revolution, I found myself picturing the students who had left Colby for the weekend to go to the protest in Washington, D.C. After all, as the song says, "When the beating of your heart echoes the beating of the drums / There is a life about to start when tomorrow comes."

The show did offer the sort of entertainment that we do not see very often because, let's face it, Colby is not that big on dance.

It was refreshing to see that people have not forgotten this form of art and came in fairly great numbers to the Waterville Opera House on both Friday and Saturday. It was refreshing to see that people are still interested in performing in such a show. But it was not the kind of show that makes your jaw drop and leaves you thinking life is beautiful and complex (you know what I am talking about, you have been to those too...).

Since I'm sure it did not have this intention in the first place, one might say they got what they wanted out of it. I, however, find myself in an "Exorcist" scene torn between some invisible forces because I have no idea whether this is a good or a bad review.

THE SHOW DID OFFER THE SORT OF ENTERTAINMENT THAT WE DO NOT SEE VERY OFTEN BECAUSE, LET'S FACE IT, COLBY IS NOT THAT BIG ON DANCE.

On cloud two there was a spark of originality due to an actual story behind the dance, a tale of death and sadness. The unseen figures dressed in white sheets were a nice touch to the theme of the performance.

Another dance that made the hair on my arms rise and my feet tap on the back of the seat in front of me happened was cloud six Sarah Style '03 choreographed agreat, chic performance to the the general feeling was the same.

the feeling the piece wanted to convey. The harsh, almost mechanical movements combined with the grace of the dancers were effective. The red background light emphasizing the silhouettes of the dancers really did it for me.

Although it seems to have been

Another piece that stood out was the tribute (that is how I chose to interpret it) to Aaliyah choreographed by Dennell Washington '02. The performers looked like they were having fun with it; plus the beat was different from all the rest and it heaved us from our lethargy.

The girls can move their stuff, no doubt about that, but not always in synch with the rest of the ensemble. Probably that is one of the mistakes, putting way too many people in a piece that could not make use of all of them properly.

Despite all this, most of the dances seemed to be taught by the same guru because they appeared to be variations on the same theme. The music was different, the costumes changed slightly, but

#### Sunday, 4/28

•Drawn From a Family - Art Museum Art Museum Lobby 3:00-4:45 p.m. Monday, 4/29 •Women's Group Film Series

Lovejoy 211 7:00-9:00 p.m. •Outward Bound Speaker and Slide Show - Lovejoy 205 8:00-9:30 p.m.

#### Tuesday, 4/30

•Senior Scholars Project Reconfiguring Sex - Lovejoy 🛌 203 4:00-5:30 p.m. •Rev. Beverly Abbott "Women and Chistianity", co-sponsred by CCF & Women's Studies Dept. - Olin 1 7:00 •Visiting Writers Series -Robins Roberts 7:00-9:00 p.m. more •Folk Music Gathering - Mary Low Coffeehouse 7:00-9:30 p.m. •AM271 Film Showing "Zoot Sult" - Arey 005 7:00-9:30 p.m. Wednesday, 5/1

•AM398 Film Showing - Arey 005 7:00-9:30 p.m. •Classical Guitar Ensemble -Mary Low Coffeehouse 7:30 p.m.

•French Club Film - Lovejoy ... 100 8:00-10:30 p.m.

# **Charlie Kohlhase Five : a listening band**

#### By JARED BEREZIN CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Charlie Kohlhase knelt behind his large baritone saxophone with one knee on the ground and surveyed his surroundings. The other four members of the Charlie Kohlhase Five played that instruments, displaying their individual talents as they improvised behind him,

Kohlhase then rose with his saxophone and joined his band. He played sweet, powerful notes, improvising along with the others, beginning a journey and creating a mood which would last for the rest of the night that of beautiful complexity.

The Charlie Kohlhase Five played two sets of adventurous jazz last Thursday night in the spa. Whether it was an original piece written by Charlie Kohlhase or a Thelonious Monk tune from the 1940s, the band played it with its own touch of crazihess and "orderly chaos," as the group's guitarist, Eric Hofbauer, described their style.

Each song was extremely transformative, evolving ever so slightly, so that one could never predict where the song was going next, or explain how it had moved from its past form into its present.

Each tune began with a clear or loosely defined melody. The band would then absorb this original tune and create a free and open middle section, during which time the players would talk about the tune with one another and reshape it with their own musical ideas.

Kohlhase, the leader of the band who plays baritone, alto, and tenor saxophone, said, "Improvisation is very important; we all know the basic framework of the piece, but once we get into the middle, it's all about listening to each other play. It's like having a conversation."

Scott Barnum, the bass player for the group, described these improvisational middle sections as "freeish" and "open." The tenor and soprano saxophone player, Jason Hunter, who is also the director of the jazz ensemble at Wellesley College, said such free form is "a surprisingly difficult way to play... (the piece) goes in a direction that's unexpected."

Throughout these sections the musicians pushed themselves to experiment and create unconventional

sounds not typically associated with their respective instruments. As one member of the audience commented after the show, "That guy played chords on the saxophone that's amazing!"

When asked how he is able to play multiple notes at once, Hunter smiled and replied, "Charlie's the master at that, I'm just trying my best." Hofbatter also made the audience's jaws drop as he played two different melodic lines at the same time on his guitar, one with his fingers and one with his thumb. Intense concentration was evident in the musicians' faces, as was their love of the music and compatibility as a group,

The band was consistently able to bring all of their rhythmic and melodic ideas together as they emerged from these middle sections and ended each tune on a solid and stable level.

Hunter and Hofbauer explained to me over a plate of fries that they never know when a piece will end, just as one can never predict when a conversation will end. Hunter then remarked that each song eventually "comes to an ending that everyone can agree on." Hofbauer agreed and added, "this group is all about listening."

The songs written by Kohlhase were unique in that the audience could tap their feet and move their heads while at the same time sit in awe of the fluidity and unplanned evolution of each piece.

The drummer for the evening, Luther Gray, perhaps best describes Charlie's songs in his remark, "(Charlie) writes interesting and catchy tunes, which is not an easy thing to do, since catchy tunes aren't usually interesting, and interesting tunes aren't usually catchy."

Kohlhase explained that his songs "are written for improvisation," and most of the time they begin as just a "vague idea." He added that when he "throws out an idea" at the beginning of a piece, "it's like throwing a pebble in a pond." The ripples from this "pebble" include the band's responses to the original idea and their subsequent improvisations, which allow the piece to become their own.

Kohlhase's works are constantly resculpted in every performance, and when asked how much control he has over such unplanned change, he laughed and said, "During one tune I was wondering if we were going to wander into the forest and disappear.".

The group's ability to interact with one another on stage was evident as each player could be heard responding to, someone else's melodies and rhythms, tossing ideas back and forth. Hofbauer described the group's sound as "very organic (and) interactive, we try to have conversations."

Professor Jeff Kasser, who introduced the band that evening, felt the group was also in constant interaction with the audience. After the show had ended, he commented on the music he loves, "One of the things about jazz is, there are parts that seem really challenging to the listener, but the band will help explain it, so it's a conversation between you and the band; it's interactive that way."

Throughout the evening the band upheld a unique feeling of calm excitement, By the middle of the second set, the remaining audience members could not take their eyes off the band. The Charlie Kohlhase Five spilled poetry out of their instruments that night. It was poetry without words, yet full of oxymorons, conversational dialogue, streams of consciousness, and perhaps most importantly rhythmic diversity,

Team



## **TRACK:** field events strong for both teams

#### continued from page 8

She is currently sixth on the National list. Right behind her at seventh is McCusker who threw the hammer 160.2 ft at the Aloha Relays. "Its pretty much guaranteed they are going to Nationals," said Aitken.

Michelle Keady '03 did not compete this last weekend, but is already ranked eighth for her throw of 158.9 ft. Captain Claudia Laverde '02 is provisionally qualified for Nationals with a throw of 147.7 ft.

events. She placed second in the javelin with a throw of 121.3 ftonly half an inch away from first place. She also finished fourth in the shot put with a throw of 142.4 ft. Aitken believes Beal could have done even better in ing second in the 100-meter dash, Harner contributed 20.5 points Lee Carlson '03 ran the relay and finished second in the 200-meter dash and fourth in the 100-meter dash; he contributed 14.5 points to the Mules' final score.

Captain LeAndrew Rankin, '03 also had an amazing day. He finished second in the hammer throw Beal also did well in other with a toss of 179.2 ft. This marks a

C. Patrick Harner '05 was part

of the 4x100 relay., as well. Also

winning the long jump and finish-

personal best and he is currently ranked tenth in the country. "I'm pretty excited right now," said Rankin. "I was happy to get a big throw off and I look forward to going to Nationals. Although as

"In the larger meets, quality takes over." James Wescott men's track coach

> individuals the Mules did well, they did not have enough people to be truly competitive as a team. Bowdoin has 70 people on their team; Bates has 55; Colby only has 26. "Its kind of a numbers game," said coach James Wescott. The Mules do not have enough people to rack up the points needed to win. "Its hard to score points," said Rankin.

Hopefully the smallness of the team will not affect the Mules quite as much this weekend at NESCACs. "In the larger meets, quality takes over," said Wescott. Size doesn't matter as much.

"We've done exceptionally well even with our small number," said Rankin. The Mules hope to finish sixth. "NESCACs is a tough tournament to win," said Rankin. "Everyone wants to go out and have a great meet individually." Hopefully this will translate into sixth place.

The Lady Mules, also, hope to do well at NESCACs. "The NESCAC conference meet is by far the toughest competition. We could be anywhere from third to eighth," said Aitken. "There are no guarantees, people are just going to have to be ready to perform. I think they are, so we'll just have to see what hapnens "

# Women's rugby still undefeated

By SUZANNE SKINNER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Page 7

Coming into the Beast of the East Tournament, the Colby women's rugby team was undefeated(14-0). Consequently, the Mules were confident that they would place well in the tournament. However, as they had never faced many of the teams participating, they were not sure if they would be able to win the entire

"We definitely had to step up the defense; that's ultimately what won us the game." Kathryn Kouda '02 captain

#### thing.

"Everybody knew we probably could win it, but we'd never done it before. I didn't really believe we would," said Holly Brewster '02. The Mules played at full throttle throughout the entire tournament and in the end they won the Div. II Beast of the East tournament.

While facing Boston University's B-side and then later Plymouth State, Colby absolutely dominated. There was never any question about who would win those games. Colby immediately scored within the first five minutes of both games. From that moment on, they were unstoppable. "We were just scoring the whole time," said Brewster. The Mules beat BU 67-0 and Plymouth State 30-0. This momentum carried over to the next day, when the Mules beat Scranton 38-0.



Defeating Boston University, Plymouth State, Scranton, Western-Washington, and Providence College, Colby women's rugby team won the Div. II Beast of the East Tournament.

had to play defensively," said half, the ball just went back and said Brewster. forth across the field with neither This weekend, the Mules will be Colby was the first team to score. team scoring. Then, just at the end of the half, the Mules scored the first and only tri of the game. "We definitely had to step up the defense; that's ultimately what won us the game," said Kosuda. Neither Kosuda. team scored in the second half and Colby became the "Beast of the East" over 23 teams competing in their division. "It was a really good experience for our team," said Brewster. This tournament marks just one victory in what has been an amazing season for Colby. In the fall, the ment. Mules went undefeated (10-0). Although they lost some of their seniors in the spring season, "the freshmen all really stepped it up,"

the shot put, an event in which she is already qualified for Nationals. All the throwing events took place at the same time, so Beal was literally running from one event to the next. "It was very hectic," said Aitken. Nevertheless, Beal was the highest point-scorer of the meet.

Karimah Ummah '04 also contributed to Colby's placement and qualified for all championship meets except Nationals. Ummah won the heptathlon with 3,505 points. In order to qualify for Nationals she needs 500 more points. "I know she can improve her score," said Aitken. "I think she could be that much better; it's a direction we may be heading in next year."

"We would have liked to have beaten Bowdoin, but I think over all it was a pretty good meet for us," said Pageau. "I really seen us beating Bowdoin next weekend," added McCusker.

The Colby men's track team-also set a lot of personal records last weekend. Competing in the Maine State Meet, 13 out of the 26 athletes achieved personal bests.

Xavier Garcia '05 led the pack with 24 points. He placed first in the 400-meter race, first in the triple jump, and was part of the winning 4x100-meter relay

"(The final) two games were definitely tough games," said captain Kathryn Kosuda '02. In the semifinals, Colby faced Western-Washington. "We were dominating the whole game, but we definitely

Brewster.

Western-Washington spent the rest of game trying to get on the scoreboard. Colby held up many of their tries, denying them the points. In the last play of the game, Western-Washington slipped past Colby's defense and scored one try and then added two points to the original five with a penalty kick. It wasn't enough, however; Colby won the game 8-7.

The finals against Providence College would prove to be even more challenging. "It was a pretty evenly matched game," said Brewster. "Neither team dominated at all." For the majority of the first playing in the Maine Collegiate Tournament. This is the last tournament of the season; if they win this, they will have gone undefeated for a year. "We hope to win it all," said

"We should take it, but you never know because things can go haywire at the last moment," said Brewster. The Mules have yet to face the University of Maine-Farmington, who advanced to the semi-finals at last week's Beast of the East tourna-

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**Sports Editor: Mjke Meloski** 

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**The Colby Echo** 

# **Colby lacrosse tops USM and Conn. College**

#### By CHRISTINA DOTCHIN STAFF WRITER

Colby's men's lacrosse team (8-3) finished its week 2-0 as it defeated the University of Southern Maine Huskies (5-6) Thursday afternoon in Gorham and the Connecticut College Camels (3-8) Saturday at home.

"I was glad a lot of guys who don't normally get to play that much got in "-said-head-coach-Rob Quinn. "It\_ was good for our younger guys to get more experience. However, I don't feel we played as well as we could have."

The White Mules soared to an early lead over the Huskies, ending the first quarter with a 4-0 lead. As the game continued, the Mules did not let up as they scored five more goals, with the Huskies getting only one, making the score 9-1 at the half.

In the beginning of the second half, the USM defense managed to keep Colby off the board for a few minutes, but that soon changed as the White Mules secured the win with a final score of 16-5. Bill Spencer '02 lead the Mules with four goals and added a pair of assists, while Mike Haimes '04 contributed three goals and an assist. Barron Butler '03 and Eric Seidel '05 picked up two goals each. Other goal scorers included Matthew Roland '05, Ryan Tyler '04, Conor Cooper '03, Jed McGraw '02, and Trenholm Boggs '02. Pulling through with some big saves for the Mules in net was Matt LaPaglia '04.

"Going into the USM game we knew that they were going to be a weaker opponent and that we were going to try and not play down to their level," said LaPaglia. "During the first half we played to our poten-

tial and were beating USM by 12 goals. During the second half, we kind of fell apart and let up some goals. But that didn't matter because we played so well in the first half."

"Connecticut College is one of those teams who can play well against other good teams," said Quinn. "They happen to have the worst record in the league, but are still a dangerous team."

The White Mules pulled out a big win over the Camels on Saturday. After a tied score of 1-1 in the first quarter, the Mules increased their intensity for the second quarter, as they charged ahead with a score of 5-1 at the end of the first half.

"At half time we gathered all the non-seniors up and reiterated the importance of that game to our season and to the seniors," said Boggs. "We stressed our responsibility to the

seniors and ourselves to give it everything we had just as the seniors were doing because we should expect that

"Going into the USM game we knew that they were going to be a weaker opponent and that we were going to try and not play down to their level." -Matt LaPaglia '04 lacrosse player

level of play from everyone. Nobody wanted that game to be our last home game, so we went out there knowing that we had to take care of business on

#### the field."

In the beginning of the third quarter, the Mules added another goal to keep the lead. The Camels tried to rally and make a comeback by closing the gap at the end of the third quarter with a score of 6-4. However, the Mules finished the game with a score of 9-7. Josh Cleaver '04, Butler, and Spencer each scored two goals each to help lead the Mules to victory.

"I think we still struggled offensively and had trouble closing the door in this game," said Quinn. "We gave up a couple goals first half, and had a lot of penalties in second half, which hurt us as well.

"The White Mules have one of their most important games of the year this Wednesday as they face off against their rival Bowdoin Polar Bears at Bowdoin at 4:30 p.m. Colby (8-3) and Bowdoin (8-3) are tied for

second place in the conference. The Mules will play their final game of the season away at Wesleyan on Saturday.

April 25, 2002

"This is the last week of the regularseason," said Quinn. "We are looking for momentum. The Bowdoin game is a huge game with the CBB champi= onship up for grabs. Hopefully we are going to go down there with a mission and make it a memorable game!"

If the team continues to play at the same level, they should do well-"Coach Quinn and (assistant coach Danilo) Arcenas are passionate, relenta less, committed and accountable to making our program be first-class and the best it can be," said Boggs. "Respect, discipline, value and leadership are just a few of the words that I have redefined this year because of this program. They have established a mind-set amongst us that puts the team first."

# Swept! Bates puts baseball out of playoff hunt

#### By JEREMY LITTLE STAFF WRITER

Colby baseball's hopes of a 2002 NESCAC playoff appearance were dashed over the weekend. The Mules lost all three games in a critical series with NESCAC rival Bates, wiping away any hopes of a playoff spot or a second consecutive CBB title.

The Mules woes began in Orono last week when UMaine pummeled the Mules 20-2, scoring 10 of those runs in the fifth inning alone. "It's really frustrating playing a team like that," said Mules captain Jon Lord '02. "You can really see the difference between D I and D III."

The Mules began their threegame series at Bates on Friday. Bates struck early, batting in two runs in

They made no errors. The difference was the big hit and an improved Bates pitching staff with that freshman Kinsman. He kept us off balance. We didn't get a lot of good swings."

"Their pitcher wasn't that good," said Mules' catcher Eric Roy '04. "He threw a lot of good curve balls. He had a good change up, but he never threw it. We're thinking too much when we get up there. We need to go to the plate stupid and swing at the ball."

The series continued on Saturday with a double header at home. While the Mules offense showed signs of life early on, it was ultimately not enough to top a late scoring surge by the Bobcats.

Colby scored first when Lord drove in Kevin Brunelle '03 in the and we didn't," said Dexter. "Their reliever Karz '03 came in at the end and shut us down. It was a disappointing loss. We had the lead and had a chance to win. We didn't get it done. That game squashed our chances right there. Tufts' win over Trinity solidified the top two teams. We would have had to sweep Tufts to get into the post season."

The Mules were again outgunned in game three, losing 12-6. Colby drew first blood when Brunelle scored on a groundout by Simard. Nevertheless, Bates then scored five runs in the second inning.

Colby managed to even up the score in the bottom of the second, adding four, but then Bates put the game out of reach scoring three runs in the sixth and four more in the



the first inning. Those two runs would prove to be the only ones necessary as the usually explosive Mules offense managed only one run, an RBI single by designated hitter Jay Johnson '03 in the seventh inning.

The Bobcats, however, had already extended their lead in the fifth inning, when Bates catcher Ben Donaldson '02 cranked a grand slam off of Brandon Royce '04 over the left field wall. They won the game 7-1.

"Donaldson's grand slam—it was a close game until right there," said Mules coach Tom Dexter. "It gave them a big lift and a good-sized lead. They played real well after that.

bottom of the first. Bates knotted the score at 1-1 when pitcher Kevin Presbrey '03 walked a hitter with the bases loaded. The Mules took back the lead, scoring five runs in the bottom of the fourth. David Prinstein '02 drove in the Mules' second run with an RBI single, followed by a two-run single by Jared Cushman '05 and a two-run single from captain Matt Simard'02.

Bates responded by scoring five of their own in the top of the fifth inning, putting the score at 6-6. The Bobcats scored the go-ahead run when Rob Maguire '04 homered in the top of the sixth. They won 7-6.

**COLBY WINS PRESIDENT'S CUP** 

"They got the big hit at the end

seventh. Colby managed only one more run in the bottom of the ninth.

"It basically was a 5-5 game," said Dexter. "It looked like it was going to be a shootout. Then Kinsman came in and shut us out. Our pitching didn't help with nine walks and two hit batters with three different pitchers. We made three errors and only six hits. We just didn't play well in the second half of the game. They extended the lead and we couldn't respond."

"That puts us now in a position where we want to remain focused. Ten out of 12 games are against playoff teams, NESCAC and NCAA. We have a chance to make our mark and

BRAD SEYMOUR/THE COLBY ECHO

Kevin Presbrey '03 pitches the ball. The Mules lost a three game series against the Bates Bobcats.

son. We have a chance to upset some playoffs, but we can still make a of the better teams in New England. mark upsetting four of the teams

to finish strong like we did last sea- We're disappointed not making the that will be there. Our tough schedule doesn't get any easier."

# **Talented track teams**. look to NESCACs

### By SUZANNE SKINNER ASSISTANT SPORTS EDITOR

Both the women's and men's track teams have talented rosters. This fact was especially evident last weekend at the Aloha Relays for women and the Maine State Meet for men. Many athletes achieved personal bests and qualified for various championship meets. The women also had a team success, placing second out of six teams. The men, however, do not have the numbers to be truly competitive and consequently, only finished third out of four teams.

"It was pretty much our field and distance events that really kept us in the high scoring," said women's coach Debra Aitken, Eight out of nine people who ran the 5,000-meter race ran a season or lifetime best. "The biggest thing in track and field is improvement," said captain Meg McCusker '02 "We're all really excited about the

(personal records)," Captain Gayle Pageau '03 led the Mule pack, fin-

"The biggest thing

in track and field is

improvement. We're

all really excited

about the (personal

records)."

ishing second over all with a time of

18:57.31. This qualified her for

ECACs and Division III New

Colby also gained points by hav-

The Mules also had a lot of suc-

ing runners in the seventh, ninth,

11th, and 13th positions. "The 5000

cess in the other distance events.

Jennifer Smyth '02 finished fourth

went really well," said Aitken.

England's.

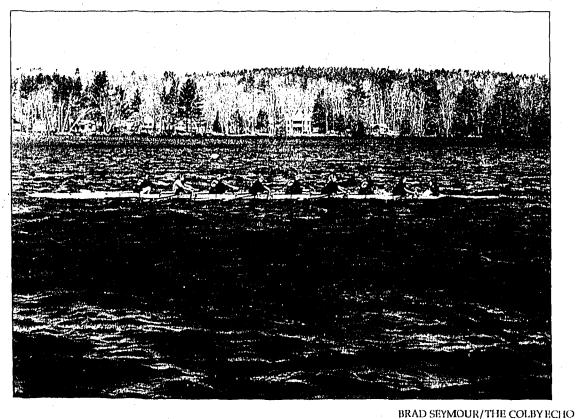
-Meg McCusker '02

captain

in the 1500-meter race with a time of 4:55.03. "She was one of our athletes of the week," said Aitken.

Mary Phelps '04 won the 10k with a time of 39:09. She qualified for all the championship meets except for Nationals. Moreover, if she drops her time by one minute, she will be provisionally qualified for that prestigious meet. Aitken believes that Phelps will definitely. drop her time. This past weekend was the first time she had ever run the 10k. She averaged between 1:34 and 1:35 for each lap, but "on the last lap she just took it out," said Aitken and ran it at 1:18, If Phelps can harness this power throughout the entire race, she will do much better.

"Our hammer throwers just had an incredible day," said Aitken, Connie Beal '03 set a meet and facil ity record with a throw of 160.7 ft,-'see TRACK continued on page 7



Both the men's and women's varsity eight boats dominated at last weekend's CBB regatta. The women finished ten seconds faster than both Bates and Bowdoin. The men, sailed past the finish line .99 seconds ahead of second place Bowdoin.

## IN THIS ISSUE

## Women's Rugby

Women's Rugby won the Beast of the East tournament last weekend. This weekend, they are travelling to Portland to face Bates, Bowdoin, UMaine -Orono and UMaine - Farmington in their last tournament of the year.

### **Devastator**

They're so good we wrote about them twice. Read about women's rugby again!

